OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE
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Worries over further cuts voiced despite surplus

POWYS County Council delivered a near £2 million surplus budget in the last financial year – despite missing vital savings targets and fears that services could be lost.

The council had a £1.965m surplus for the year 2015/16 which ended on March 31, thanks to two financial adjustments totalling £4.615m.

However, without the financial adjustments, the council would have reported a substantial overspend with only £9.716m of the planned £12.768m savings being achieved.

Deputy leader and cabinet member for finance Councillor Wynne Jones, said: "I never imagined that I would view an outcome surplus of £1.965m as a disappointment but in reality it is a disappointing performance against the targeted budget savings with only 76 per cent achieved.

"Failure by the council to deliver a substantially increased savings target for 2016/17 will inevitably result in more drastic actions and the removal of many services altogether.

"Fortunately we were able to make two significant financial changes at the very end of the year, the capitalisation of £1.58m of costs associated with the transformation agenda, and secondly a change to the way the council repays its debts also released £3.025m into the revenue budget.

"These two changes made up for the poor savings performance and has provided a 'one off' surplus and avoided the council finding itself very difficult financial position.

"The problem the council now has is that this surplus is only 'in year' and does not satisfy the required longer term reduction in the council's base budget.

"Therefore, the unachieved savings will now need to be carried forward into the current year (2016/17) and achieved in addition to the current year's savings target of over £10m."

COUNCIL CHIEF'S HOPE FOR CENTRE

Report by Naomi Penrose

THE deputy leader of Shropshire Council says he is confident Oswestry's leisure centre has a future – even going as far as to say he "would probably leave the county" if it was to close.

Councillor Steve Charmley issued an assurance for the future of the leisure centre and the town library after Oswestry Town Council last month indicated it would likely refuse to take on their running.

Cllr Charmley

Councillor Charmley said: "There is a future for them. I really could not see either of them closing. Whether Shropshire Council continues to run the leisure centre, that's up for debate, but I am confident that these services will continue to run in the town."

Councillor Charmley said he believes their future will continue through the commissioning of the services locally, as well as through the town and surrounding parish councils working together. He said: "There's a period of negotiation at the moment, and plus it doesn't have to be the town council alone that runs them.

"The library is the centrepiece for the town, people use it as a hub, and the leisure centre is a magnificent facility for the area, and it's not just used by people from Oswestry."

Councillor Charmley said he believed by councils and organisations working together, there was potential to save cash, which can be poured into a body that would run the services and "do things a little differently".

He said: "I firmly believe that it's not for Shropshire Council to dictate terms to local councils, but for ideas to come forward. The amount of support from the town and parish councils for supporting these services will ultimately decide how these services operate going forward. It's like we're creating a Republic of Oswestry, putting the old borough together under a different banner."

● Support – See Page 3

Judges scrutinise blooming marvellous efforts

Margaret Thrower and Betty Gull start the judging in this year's Oswestry In Bloom competition. Photo: Alan Evans.

OSWESTRY'S green-fingered enthusiasts have been having their best efforts judged by the daughter of Britain's first celebrity gardener.

The late Percy Thrower tenderly nurtured the BBC's Blue Peter garden and was a household name from the 1950s to the 1980s.

His daughter Margaret Thrower is continuing his legacy. She was this week judging Oswestry in Bloom entries in a three-day walking tour of the town.

Miss Thrower and Oswestry in Bloom chairman Betty Gull braved the changeable British summer's sunshine and showers to select the outstanding blooms in their tour of the town which is currently filled with beautiful hanging baskets and colourful trays of plants at every turn.

Miss Thrower said: "I always look forward to judging this competition and every year it gives me ideas for putting into practice in my own garden.

"I still refer to dad's Encyclopaedia of Gardening as judging. It is still current, apart from all of the new chemicals that are always changing.

"Dad liked everything in the garden but he was particularly fond of fuchsia and begonias. He used to judge in Nantwich in Cheshire and I took over from him. Gardening was his job and hobby. He was in the right place at the right time. He was gardening in the early days of popular television when he was pretty much the only one in his field. In this competition, there is a class for everyone and many of the evergreens are first class too."

EMPLOYMENT

Company to create its own academy to fill skills gap

A WELSHPOOL company is launching its own training academy, creating 16 new apprenticeships.

Sidoli, which makes desserts for the food service industry, employs 400 people at its Henfaes Lane headquarters.

Bosses say the company is launching the academy to grow its own multi-skilled workforce, having previously struggled to recruit skilled staff.

The company is working with training provider Cambrian Training Company, who will deliver the apprenticeship programmes for the academy. Initially the training provider will deliver foundation apprenticeships in food industry skills, supporting apprentices in the workplace.

Sidoli is recruiting young people between the ages of 16 and 24 years. Applicants for the 16 apprenticeships will be invited to an open day on August 11 when they will be taken on a tour of Sidoli's manufacturing facilities and told exactly what the jobs entail.

"Like many manufacturing businesses, we find it difficult to attract skilled workers," said Sidoli's personnel manager Sian Evans. "Historically, we have not attracted many young people, so this is a potential resource for the company to tap into.

"The academy will give young apprentices the skills and flexibility to work in the different departments across the whole business."

FOOTBALL

Draw keeps Saints' Euro dream alive

OSWESTRY'S The New Saints kept alive their chances of making further progress in this season's Champions League after being locked in a goalless stalemate with classy Cypriots APOEL Nicosia at Park Hall.

Despite on the back foot for long spells against a side brimming with European pedigree, the Saints held firm in the first leg of the second qualifying round on Tuesday evening to give themselves everything to play for in next Tuesday's return in Cyprus against the Cypriot outfit.

● Tie – See Page 39

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Treats for all at food festival

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CONTACT US

Associate Editor: Iain St John: 01691 668094
news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Reporter: Sue Austin: 01691 668099
sue.austin@shropshirestar.co.uk

Reporter: Pam Kingsley: 01691 668098
pam.kingsley@shropshirestar.co.uk

Reporter: Naomi Penrose: 01691 668097
naomi.penrose@shropshirestar.co.uk

Sport: Dave Cooper: 01952 241475
dave.cooper@shropshirestar.co.uk

Photographic: 01691 668094

Regional advertising sales manager:
Alison Jukes: 01743 283330
alison.jukes@shropshirestar.co.uk

Advertising supervisor:
Beverley Thompson: 01691 668092
beverley.thompson@shropshirestar.co.uk

Sales representative:
Andy Eilledge: 01691 668090
andy.eilledge@shropshirestar.co.uk

Sales representative:
Victoria Dodd: 01691 668091
victoria.dodd@shropshirestar.co.uk

Distribution: 01902 319537
p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

14 Salop Road, Oswestry
SY11 2NU
www.oswestrychronicle.com

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Councils in further clash over school transport row

Report by Naomi Penrose

CLAIMS that Powys County Council is shirking its responsibilities over school transport for Shropshire pupils have been rejected by the authority.

Powys County Council has described the criticism by Councillor David Minnery, Shropshire County Council's cabinet member for children and young people, as "ill-informed, unfounded and based on a misunderstanding of the circumstances" surrounding school transport issues between Shropshire and Llanfyllin.

Earlier this month Councillor Minnery hit out at Powys County Council over its decision to enforce a policy which means parents of 149 Shropshire pupils attending Llanfyllin High School will no longer have their transport costs subsidised.

The policy will come into force from 2018 and could cost parents £660 a year. Councillor Minnery called on the council to rethink the decision, claiming that parents chose the school for their children with the belief that they would not face transport costs.

But Councillor Wynne Jones, Powys County Council's cabinet member for finance, said: "We are disappointed that the Shropshire Council cabinet member has intervened in a subject that he doesn't appear to understand by asking Powys to take on a responsibility that his council would not. Powys and Shropshire county councils have a responsibility to provide free home to school transport to qualifying children – those who live more than three miles from their nearest secondary school. Neither county will provide free transport when parents elect to send their children to a school that is not their nearest school as is the case with 149 pupils travelling from Shropshire to Llanfyllin."

Prior to 2008 many schools in Powys ran bus services outside of their catchment areas and used delegated school funding to pay for it.

"This practice was not only unlawful, but used funding designated for education for transport," said Councillor Jones.

"Powys took the decision to bring the unlawful practice to an end and following discussions with secondary schools allowed three years for the change to be implemented."

Runners' efforts are recognised by hospital

Hospital chief executive Mark Brandreth, Dominic Cole, Larna Andrew, Paul Koffman and Frank Collins

MEMBERS of the public and staff from Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have been recognised in their efforts in raising more than £22,500 by running the London Marathon.

A reception hosted by hospital trust chairman Frank Collins and chief executive Mark Brandreth was held at the hospital to thank the 12 runners who took part in the iconic race in April on behalf of the hospital. Two were members of staff, with 10 being members of the public who opted to support the Gobowen-based hospital.

Eleven of the 12 were raising funds for the hospital's Bone Cancer Centre Appeal. That appeal has been contributing towards the creation of dedicated bone cancer facilities within the new £15.1 million theatre and ward development, which is due to open next month. One runner took part on behalf of the hospital's spinal injuries centre.

Mr Collins, a former marathon runner himself, said "We had 12 fantastic runners representing our charities. There are so many worthwhile charitable causes for people to support , so to get 10 members of the public to decide to support our trust is something we really do appreciate. Mark and I are in awe. We want to put on record our heartfelt appreciation for their effort and dedication.

"We will be putting the money to real good effect. Much of the new theatre and ward development has been made possible on the back of the fundraising that has been done over the years."

Runners who attended the reception included Larna Andrew, a physiotherapist at the hospital.

Other runners who attended the reception included Dominic Cole, who is now training for the Tenby Ironman, and Paul Koffman, landlord of the Cross Keys pub in Llanfynydd, who ran the marathon dressed as a chef carrying a cast iron frying pan.

The hospital is now looking for runners willing to support it by taking part in the 2017 London Marathon.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Oswestry, SY10 7AG

will be held at 3pm on

Thursday 28th July 2016

in the hospital's conference facilities.
This will include the Annual General Meeting of the Trust's Governors.
Presentations from the Chairman and Trust Board. All welcome.
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Council chief gives support to BID plan

A COUNCIL chief believes transforming Oswestry town centre into a Business Improvement District (BID) will benefit the area.

Councillor Steve Charmley, deputy leader of Shropshire Council, urged the town's business community to make the most of the BID process.

Oswestry is currently at the early stages of the process of becoming a BID town. Businesses in a BID zone pay an additional levy on top of their business rates, but the money raised could then bring in matched funding for projects to improve the town centre and bring in more visitors.

Shrewsbury is already a BID town, and in total there are about 200 BID towns and cities across the UK.

Councillor Charmley said: "I would strongly encourage businesses to really think about this and find out as much as possible about the benefits and of course the disadvantages of becoming a BID town. Businesses need to make an informed decision but I personally think it will really benefit the town.

"I think through the levy enough needs to be raised to have a tangible effect on the town."

At last week's meeting of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, members heard the pros and cons of becoming a BID town, and were asked to come forward if they were interested in pursuing a BID proposal.

Choir ready to perform at club

THE Oswestry Orthopaedic Male Voice Choir is to perform a concert for the Trefonen and District Jubilee Club.

The club was formed in 1977, the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, to provide a focal point for retired people in and around Trefonen.

Activities at the club, which meets twice a month, focus on the physical and intellectual wellbeing of the group, as well as social activities.

The concert is to raise funds for the club. The choir will sing a varied programme including classical pieces and modern arrangements.

The concert will be held in Trefonen Village Hall on July 28 starting at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets are £5 available on the door.

For more information people can contact Graham Evans on (01691) 654925.

Court told of kill threat over victim's £600 debt

Report by Arthur Mills

AN alleged drug dealer had threatened to kill a man who he believed owed him money and who was later stabbed at a house, a court heard.

Luke Cross, 22, is also alleged to have threatened to burn down the victim's home over the £600 debt.

A jury at Stafford Crown Court was told three of the defendants' associates had confronted Barry Wright at a property in Castlefields, Oswestry, in January this year.

Mr Wright was attacked and suffered a stab wound to the left side of his back causing injuries to his spleen and a kidney which had to be removed.

Matthew Lowe, prosecuting, told the jury three men – Arsene Cubaka, known as CJ, Telmo Bernardo and Nathan McCarthy – had all pleaded guilty to offences relating to the attack.

It was claimed that Cross and the three men were involved in the supply of drugs in the Oswestry area.

Cross, of Mount View in Sutton Coldfield, denies charges of making threats to kill and a threat to cause criminal damage.

Mr Lowe said that Mr Wright was a cocaine addict and the attack on him was motivated by Cross and the others believing the victim had taken some of their money.

He said at the time Mr Wright lived in Queen Elizabeth Drive in Oswestry and his daughter Georgia lived at the same address.

Mr Lowe said the threats were said to have been made by Cross in phone calls to Miss Wright when it was discovered the money was missing.

He claimed Cross had told her that her father would be killed and that his home would be burned down with the intention that she believe the threat would be carried out if the money was not repaid. On January 23 the defendant was returning from Spain and his three "business associates" visited Mr Wright's address to collect the money. Later the same day Mr Wright was attacked at a friend's house and the threats were said to have been made by Cross to Miss Wright in phone calls from an airport.

Bernardo, 18, of Glau Gors, Caia Park,Wrexham, McCarthy, 22, of Abdon Avenue, Selly Oak, Birmingham and Cubaka, 23 of Somerton Court, Erdington, Birmingham, remain in custody awaiting sentence.

The trial continues.

Project will remember town's war fallen

John Davies and Bobby Coleman have been researching Oswestry's Men on the Gates war heroes

THE lives and stories of the 300-plus men who are commemorated on Oswestry's war memorial gates are to make up a heritage resource to document the town's role during the First World War.

Qube in Oswestry is looking for volunteers to help with its project 'Men on the Gates', after being awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to research and document the lives and stories of the men commemorated on the memorial.

The 'Men on the Gates' project plans to create a comprehensive resource for future generations, documenting Oswestry's role during the conflict, with the final research linking to national archives through an interactive website and printed publications.

Project researcher John Davies said: "The men came from all walks of society but there are many connections between them – brothers, neighbours, colleagues, pastimes and much more.

"The stories behind the names are fascinating, intriguing and often poignant."

Mr Davies has already been working with Cambrian Railway Society to help uncover the stories of the 'Railway Men on the Gates'. Project volunteer Bobby Coleman, who has been researching Australian and Canadian 'Men on the Gates' said: "Doing the research has been very rewarding, revealing their life stories, discovering who they were and how they came to be embroiled in such tragic world events."

Qube is calling for anyone with an interest in Oswestry's First World War history to get involved by becoming a research volunteer.

Anyone interested is invited to come along to one of the drop-in sessions at Qube, held every Friday from 10am to 2pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rectory to host family barbecue

A FAMILY barbecue will be taking place at a village church near Oswestry this weekend.

The Whittington and West Felton church family barbecue will take place on Sunday at 4pm at Whittington Rectory.

Sausages and burgers with salads will be served, as well as desserts.

Soft drinks, tea and coffee will also be provided.

People are welcome to bring their own wine or beer.

There will also be outdoor games and activities for all ages.

People do not need tickets but should telephone (01691) 238658 so organisers know how many people to cater for.

There will be no charge but organisers will be inviting donations on the day to help cover costs.

Tourism centre to close its doors

THE visitor information centre at Mile End on the outskirts of Oswestry will close to the public on Saturday, council bosses have confirmed.

The decision to close the centre was made by Shropshire Council's cabinet in March as part of cost-cutting measures. At the time the council revealed visitor numbers had dropped from 76,000 in 2008 to fewer than 30,000 at present. Councillor Stuart West said: "Though the centre is closing people will still be able to access and receive visitor information from Oswestry Borderland Tourism Ltd, by visiting the Heritage Centre, from the board that will be in place at Mile End or from a wide range of local attractions and websites."

Monthly car boot sale will be held

A VILLAGE'S monthly car boot sale will be held this weekend.

Taking place at St Martins playing field next to Stans Superstore on Saturday, villagers will have a chance to grab a bargain at the sale.

Cars cost £5, while vans and trailers cost £7.

Those proceeds will go towards funds at St Martins Community Centre in the village, the organisers have said.

The car boot sale will take place between 10am and 2pm.

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Divers at the Llangollen Canal

Fresh appeal in murder investigation

POLICE have suspended their search for an unidentified body – but made a fresh appeal for information about the suspected murder victim.

Officers who have been scouring land in in a search for a body now want to hear from anyone who knows a Nathan or Michael from the Wrexham area who has not been seen for five years. A search was made of a smallholding at Henlle near Gobowen and divers searched the nearby Llangollen Canal during a month-long operation. Forestry near Bwlchgwyn, Wrexham was also searched.

North Wales Police said that the search, which involved specialist "cadaver" police dogs, police search team specialists and forensic experts, has been suspended.

Detective Chief Inspector Neil Harrison of North Wales Police said: "Despite our best efforts we have to date been unsuccessful in locating any human remains and so the search has been suspended pending further information and intelligence from the public.

"The investigation however continues and we are now asking the public to help us identify who the unidentified man may be. From inquiries conducted we believe the person buried is an adult male from the Wrexham area whose first name is Nathan or Michael. Do you know a Nathan or Michael from the Wrexham area who you've had no contact with or not seen in the last five years? If so please call our investigation team and help us piece this together."

MP disappointed over lack of wind farm convoy talks

Report by Andrew Morris

MONTGOMERYSHIRE MP Glyn Davies says he is disappointed wind farm developers are not staging a public meeting in Welshpool over plans to bring huge convoys of lorries through Shropshire and Mid Wales.

Renewable Energy Systems (RES) and Awel Newydd announced they would hold joint public information events in Pant and Newtown, regarding their turbine delivery programmes for the proposed Tirgwynt and Garreg Lwyd Hill Wind Farms. Mr Davies contacted representatives of both RES and Awel Newydd to request that a similar event was also held in Welshpool.

However, both RES and Awel Newydd responded that they will not be holding an event in the town.

Mr Davies said: "I had requested an event because both deliveries will come through Welshpool and the route for the Tirgwynt Wind Farm will come right through the centre of the town."

The information event at Pant was held at Pant Memorial Hall on Tuesday this week. The Newtown event was due to be held today (Thursday).

In response to Mr Davies's criticism about the lack of a Welshpool meeting, the firms said: "Awel Newydd has attended several public meetings in Welshpool and met regularly with the community liaison group to share specific information on deliveries and the route through Welshpool – and the recent trial run demonstrated the measures we have implemented to minimise disruption there have been effective. RES has also engaged with town and county councillors representing Welshpool, and both Awel Newydd and RES have made contact information widely available for members of the public to discuss any questions or concerns regarding the construction of the wind farms."

Cool offer from firm

A LEADING business and two sports clubs have joined forces to attract new spectators to cricket and football matches.

Season ticket holders at Shrewsbury Town Football Club and those wearing the club's football shirt will qualify for either one free drink or an ice cream at Shrewsbury Cricket Club's Salop Leisure Knockout T20 Trophy tournament, which begins tomorrow (Friday).

In addition to sponsoring the T20 tournament, award-winning caravan dealership Salop Leisure has agreed to pay for the drinks and ice cream in the hope that more football fans will be encouraged to watch Shrewsbury Cricket Club this summer.

The Salop Leisure Knockout T20 Trophy tournament is spread over three Friday evenings. Hosts Shrewsbury defend the title against Bridgnorth tomorrow while former winners Oswestry play Shifnal on July 22.

Further award for lifesaver

Lifesaver Kelli Smith by the pool at Derwen College at Gobowen

LIFEGUARD Kelli Smith has received her second award for saving a man's life.

Kelli, 35, who works at the Derwen College at Gobowen was voted lifeguard of the year by the Royal Life Saving Society at an awards ceremony.

Her quick-thinking and swift response saved the life of a swimmer at the college.

Earlier this year she was given a Royal Humane Society award for the rescue in November.

Martin Symcox, from the Royal Life Saving Society, said: "There is some fantastic water safety work going on in swimming pools across the UK and the awards are a great opportunity to give individuals the recognition they deserve for the vital role they play in keeping the public safe around water.

"The judges were impressed with Kelli's skills as a lifeguard and in particular her role in preventing the drowning."

Kelli said: "I knew I only had three minutes before he was in real serious trouble so I breathed into his mouth and started CPR.

"I went into automatic, people say I acted like a robot.

"I was just doing my job."

Rhine in Flames

Due to its stunning beauty the Rhine Valley has long been a popular holiday destination for British tourists. With a new sight to behold around every twist of the river it has been the inspiration of artists and poets for centuries. Our chosen resort of Boppard lies on the banks of the Middle Rhine, a stretch of the river that flows through the Rhine Gorge with more than 40 castles and fortresses from the Middle Ages, many quaint country villages and vineyards that adorn the steep river banks. Rhine in Flames is an annual celebration and the best way to enjoy the event is on board a boat where you will be amazed by the creative fireworks display. With between 30 and 60 boats neatly lined up, you will definitely be caught up in all the excitement of the evening. Vineyards, castles and riverbanks are awash with light during the finale and an enjoyable evening will be had by all.

Best Western Bellevue Rheinhotel, Boppard ★★★★

This stylish 4 star hotel is situated on the main riverside promenade and is only a stone's throw from the centre of the town. Guests can either indulge with an aperitif in the cosy bar or relax in the hotel's leisure centre. Enjoy local specialities in the stylish restaurant with great views over the river. The hotel is beautifully decorated in a Belle Epoque style with gilded mirrors and artwork on the walls.

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Schoolchildren told to stay inside because of emissions

Report by Naomi Penrose

SCHOOLCHILDREN as young as seven were forced to stay inside during their playtime because of concerns over emissions from a nearby factory.

Pupils from were unable to play outside last Friday due to "waste coming from Kronospan", according to the seven-year-old son of Chirk Town Councillor Mark Roberts, Harry.

The company has apologised and said the emissions were "not acceptable", but has insisted that they were not harmful. Children were also forced to stay inside during playtime for a second time on Monday due to a similar incident. In recent weeks residents have voiced fears about the emissions, dust and wood fibres, from the factory.

Councillor Roberts said he was concerned that primary schoolchildren were unable to play outside during their break time because of the situation.

He said: "It's extremely worrying when your children can't even play outside because of it, and what also concerns me is what are our children breathing in? It's bad enough that we're all breathing this stuff in but it's more worrying when it's our children too.

"I am absolutely disgusted that we are having to put up with this in the 21st century and our children are made to suffer. Will this happen again and if so, will there be a procedure in place if it does?"

Councillor Roberts confirmed he had lodged a complaint with Wrexham Council, after the incident at Ysgol y Waun in Chirk.

Councillor Terry Evans, who represents the Chirk South ward on Wrexham Council, said: "This is extremely alarming, I know this has happened in the past but this hasn't happened for some time and I'm afraid this isn't good enough.

"I know that Kronospan is working on it but I'm afraid after 40 years, they've had long enough."

Kronospan chairman Mike McKenna apologised for "causing concern" at the school, and said work was being carried out to resolve the issue.

He said: "There was no incident but the routine operation of our board production abatement system currently results in low level discharge of cleaned process gases.

"On occasions, as a result of unusual climatic conditions, the emission grounds. Even though the emission is not harmful, it is not acceptable and as previously explained we are in the process of ducting the process gas to a higher level to get better dispersion and resolve the issue."

Mr McKenna confirmed this process will be completed by the end of this month.

Teen used Facebook to set up man

A TEENAGER set up a vulnerable man by creating a false Facebook profile in his name.

She pretended that he was intending to cut her up and throw her into a river.

Mold Crown Court heard that it was an attempt to get the man into trouble. The man was arrested and held in custody for 24 hours on suspicion of making a threat to kill and other matters.

Defendant Sophie Watkin, 18, of Bron y Buckley in Welshpool, admitted a charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

She received a six-month prison sentence suspended for two years with 40 hours rehabilitation. The defendant was made the subject of a two-year order not to contact the man and not to pretend to be him on social media.

Prosecuting barrister Simon Mintz said that on June 1, Facebook messages purported to show that a man was intending to murder the defendant.

As a result the man was arrested and questioned. But it quickly came to light that she had set up the Facebook profile herself and when arrested and interviewed she admitted doing so.

Defending barrister Jonathan Austin said that Watkin was a very vulnerable young woman of good character. There was a background to the case and his client was immature, he said..

"She is sorry about what she did," he said.

Couple ready to open doors

Mel and Heather Parkes are supporting the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund

A COUPLE will be throwing open the doors to their 16th century home and stunning gardens in a bid to raise £1,000 for the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund.

Mel and Heather Parkes, who own Lamplight Antiques, are inviting everyone to their Open House and Garden Days at 1 Church Bank, Welshpool on July 23 and 24 between noon and 6pm.

The home and garden have been open to the public previously as part of the National Gardens Scheme but this is the first time the couple has held a weekend in aid of charity following treatment received by Mel at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital's Lingen Davies Unit.

Mel is recovering after a lengthy period of care at the unit for prostate cancer and has set the £1,000 target to pay tribute to the service provided by the staff.

"The care I received at the Lingen Davies Unit was absolutely brilliant and the staff were all amazing so the very least we can do is help towards the fund which keeps the unit going," said Mel. Number 1, Church Bank is regarded as a jewel in Welshpool's crown. The couple have carefully restored the property which was once the home of Charlie Parry, the last cooper to make barrels for the dairy trade and visitors will be able to wander through the house and through a conservatory and into a garden room which houses a museum of Welsh country life and tools from many trades.

Entry is £3.50 with children admitted for free.

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

We all know he's pompous, annoying and a massive self-publicist who thrives on controversy but Piers Morgan really went too far this week when he criticised the Wales football team for an "over the top" homecoming parade after the European Championships.

You've gathered by now that I'm no fan of the GMTV presenter and former editor of the News Of The World and Daily Mirror.

I've detested the man since we rubbed shoulders at a Society of Editors conference when he attempted to defend himself for printing fake pictures in The Mirror of the British Army allegedly abusing Iraqi prisoners.

Morgan refused to apologise and was fired by Trinity Mirror boss Sly Bailey for authorising the publication of the false images.

His understanding of journalism and the art of newspaper editor strides down a very different road to the one I travel.

Morgan took to Twitter to criticise the Wales team and the Welsh nation for celebrating the greatest football achievement in the history of the nation with an open top bus parade through Cardiff and party at Cardiff City Stadium, claiming it was "over the top".

Morgan's words caused a furore on social media sites and rightly so. Wales fans took the TV presenter to task with Plaid Cymru AM Bethan Jenkins, Ashes cricket winner Simon Jones and sports presenter Gabby Logan joining in after he tweeted – "The Wales football team do realise they didn't even make the Euro 2016 final, right?"

An Arsenal fan, Morgan is a huge critic of Gunners and Wales midfielder Aaron Ramsey, who turned out to be one of the stars of the European tournament. So yet another case of sour grapes from the man who makes me cringe every time I see him on the GMTV sofa.

And just a bit of advice Piers, stay the other side of Offa's Dyke if you know what's good for you.

....

There may be lots of talk of companies pulling out of the UK after the Brexit vote but that's certainly not the case for Welshpool's major employer Sidolis who this week announced they were recruiting 16 new apprenticeships for a new training academy.

It seems the dessert making company, which employs over 400 people in Welshpool, has struggled to recruit skilled staff despite being a major success story in Mid Wales where it has been based since 1982.

The academy will represent a significant investment by the company and will hopefully serve as an example to many others that are acknowledging huge skill gaps in the country since apprenticeships became unfashionable.

National Grid says its charges account for around five per cent of a typical household energy bill

Energy company adverts suggest a competitive market – but all companies have to use the grid

National Grid made more than £2 billion last year, nearly four times as much as British Gas

Households 'still paying too much for energy'

MARK ANDREWS takes a closer look at our energy prices and the monopoly held by the National Grid

FROM the cute little animated figure on people's doorstep telling them how to save money on their bills, to the urgent telephone calls from gas and electricity providers telling you it is time to switch, we could all be forgiven for thinking we have one of the most competitive energy industries in the world.

But, while energy prices have fallen since reaching their peak during the latter months of 2013, it has been claimed that the average household is still paying £37 a year more than it should be for its gas and electricity. And for once, it is not the so-called 'Big Six' which are to blame.

Back in 2013, when concerns about energy prices were at their height, a debate broke out about how best to tackle the problem of soaring bills.

Then-Labour leader Ed Miliband called for legislation which would freeze prices for up to 20 months, but David Cameron instead opted for reform of the market, introducing more competition to drive prices down.

The Government will doubtless point to some degree of success. Today there are 35 energy suppliers competing for your business, double the number there were four years ago, and the smaller, independent suppliers now hold 15.5 per cent of the market. However, the profits made by even the Big Six pale into comparison compared to those of the National Grid.

National Grid is responsible for the UK's electricity cables and gas mains

While the different energy suppliers compete to handle the billing side of the industry, the Warwick-based company effectively has a monopoly over the network which delivers gas and electricity to the UK. It doesn't matter whether you're with British Gas, SSE, or one of the new independent energy suppliers, your gas and electricity still comes from the same source through the same pipes and cables. And these are managed by National Grid.

Last year the Grid generated a net profit of more than £2 billion, nearly four times as much as British Gas. According to Mark Todd, of comparison site Energyhelpline, the company makes around £150 from the average energy bill.

Because of its monopoly status, the company's charges are regulated by energy watchdog Ofgem, but Mr Todd says these controls are not near stringent enough.

"National Grid owns most of the pipes and wires down which gas and electricity flows in the UK," he says.

"It's not the most exciting of businesses, but it's one of the most lucrative. Their UK profit margin is an incredible 38 per cent. Google makes 20 per cent, British Gas and SSE make five per cent. Only companies like Apple beat them currently on a 40 per cent margin.

"This is happening because they are simply allowed to charge too much by Ofgem who sets their pricing. Ofgem could change this."

Mr Todd said a 25 per cent reduction in charges to suppliers through tougher price limits similar to those in the US would save households £37 a year. National Grid says its charges account for approximately five per cent of a typical household energy bill, which pays for the safe operation of gas and electricity transmission networks across the UK.

"To ensure these networks are able to cope with future demands efficiently, National Grid invested a record £4 billion in its energy infrastructure last year," said a spokesman for the company.

"We are incentivised by the energy regulator Ofgem to get the most cost-effective deal for ill payers. Over the past three years, this has already seen us generate savings of around £330 million for UK customers."

Mr Todd is not convinced. He points out that National Grid also does pretty much the same work in the US, but makes less than 16 per cent profit in the American market compared to 38 per cent in the UK.

"They can't use the investment argument to justify these huge takings," he says.

"Despite much lower profits, they actually invested more in America last year than in the UK. The regulators over there are much tougher and their profits are limited, even though they are basically doing the same thing."

The House of Commons energy committee has published a report calling for National Grid to be stripped of its powers for balancing Britain's future energy system. The committee called for the company to be relieved of its duties in shaping future energy policy, with its role instead transferred to a new independent system operator (ISO).

But the Grid has hit back, quoting a report by Lord Adonis of the National Infrastructure Commission which said there was no sign that the company had negatively affected consumers.

"Our priority as a system operator will always be balancing the system minute-by-minute and getting the best value for billpayers," said a Grid spokesman.

WORKING FOR YOU

Another amazing week in Westminster politics.

So much is happening, and so quickly that it's difficult to keep up with events.

The biggest event has been Theresa May becoming our Prime Minister.

She is exactly the right person to bring calm, stability and unity to the Conservative Party and to the country.

I wish her well as she takes on this greatest of challenges, and look forward to working with her over the next four years.

Britain is still recovering from the shock of Brexit.

Many have written to me calling for a second referendum on the principle of withdrawal from the EU.

This is not going to happen.

Massive

The voters of Britain, of Wales and of Powys decided decisively in a massive EU referendum turn-out that the UK is leaving the European Union.

Many are demanding another referendum before Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty is invoked.

Others are calling for another referendum after the future arrangements for our relationship with the European Union have been hammered out.

None of these things are going to happen.

As our new Prime Minister, who supported remaining an EU member has made very clear, Brexit means Brexit. The decision is taken.

There is no going back.

There are also calls for a General Election.

I very much hope this is not going to happen either.

Coalition

In 2010, the Liberal Democrat/Conservative Coalition forced through (at the insistence of the Liberal Democrats) that each parliament should last five years.

In future no Prime Minister should have the power to call an election just when he or she wants to.

The next General Election will be in May 2020. It may well be to the benefit of the Conservative Party to have a General Election in October while the official Labour opposition are in such total disarray. My view is that this would be 'opportunistic' and would be seen as such.

What Britain needs now is stability and calm. The last thing we want is more political turbulence.

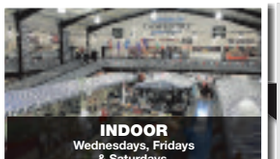
We have a new Prime Minister, with a deserved reputation for calm and careful consideration.

Theresa May knows she has a very tough job ahead of her, managing the Brexit process and developing trade links across the world.

Let her get on with the job.

Glyn Davies

Montgomeryshire MP



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Concern over council services amid cuts

AS a Craven Arms town councillor I am fully aware of the financial challenges that we in Shropshire face if we are to preserve any meaningful level of services. To be frank I despair, because the situation is indeed desperate.

Despite the savage cuts already made, the latest projections are that we need to "save" another £77 million over the next five years, bringing the total amount of "savings" since 2009 to £223 million!

In an effort to make this happen Shropshire Council is currently "consulting" with town and parish councils, and having their much vaunted "big conversation" with various public bodies, who they anticipate will fill this void, thereby protecting "non-statutory" services, (the definition of which has suddenly become quite vague and ambiguous), such as libraries, leisure centres, arts and museum services, youth services etc.

If we can't, according to Shropshire Council's latest report, then these services could be discontinued as early as this coming September.

Upon reading the report the only conclusion one can draw is: services are inevitably going to diminish, but expect to pay more for less, and/or provide services voluntarily, or alternatively go without altogether.

I suspect the outcome will be a combination of all of the above, but realistically the mooted savings are patently unachievable if we are to maintain any semblance of a civilised society.

The bloated scale of the sums involved begs the question: where was all this money going previously?

In the meantime Shropshire Council's appetite for spending on high salaries, consultants, upgraded IT equipment, bonuses and vanity projects seems to be healthy and undiminished.

A J WILLETTS
Craven Arms

Britain must give world a confident image of our country

WE have to make our EU decision work. I say that as someone who voted Remain, is really disappointed, and is no admirer of Iain Duncan-Smith and Michael Gove in particular.

We should make no mistake, innovative, indeed revolutionary thinking is now urgently needed. Reflection is essential but inertia would be catastrophic.

We should act as quickly as possible to develop an overarching strategy encompassing trade, the boosting of manufacturing industry in changed circumstances, infrastructural investment, immigration policy, increased border security, new geo-political relationships and, above all, bringing the country together.

Strategy and leadership should be the key words. We also need to project a confident image to the world, which is rather puzzled at what we have just done.

Sadly we now have an immediate economic shock to handle, and tortuous negotiations with Brussels to initiate. We have to face up to that bravely, but proceed with long term planning, much of which need not depend on EU negotiation outcomes.

We do need our own powerful vision, for the whole UK, which we should strive tirelessly to keep united.

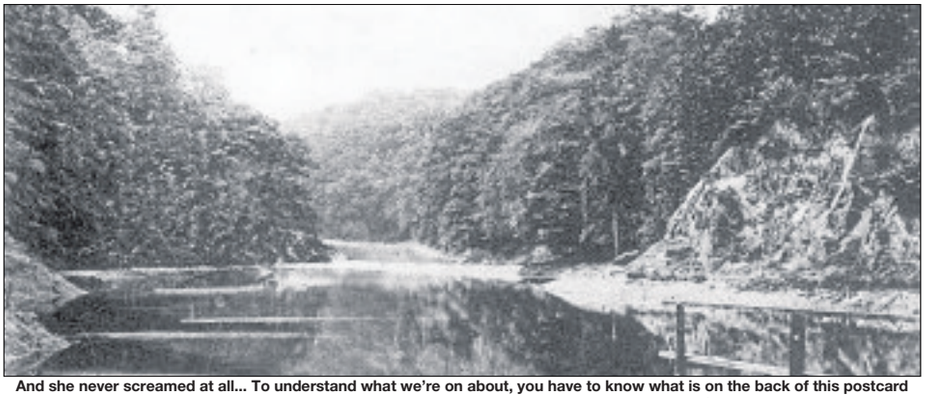
If, in the end, Scotland will not stay within the union we must be quite clear and unapologetic, and speak instead for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Time will tell which it is to be.

We need to hope for the best.

JOHN GEMMELL
Wem

Bizarre postcard message was a scream



And she never screamed at all... To understand what we're on about, you have to know what is on the back of this postcard from over 110 years ago showing Black Pool, Welshpool. Handwritten on the front is the date October 1, 1904, and it was franked on that day at Reading. The somewhat unpunctuated message was: "Dear L, Thanks for letter. Can wait till Nov as suits you. Glad you got a nice case. Will do half quoted as you suggested. Cannot think of anything just at present for (?unreadable) will write when I can think of anything suitable. Went to Hatson Sun. She is about indoors. C.M. behaved admirably even condescended to allow me to nurse her and never screamed at all. Love from S." It was posted to Miss Bagell, of 75 High Street, Bedford. Picture: Sally Anne Richards.

Campaign wants to blow whistle on domestic abuse

TO coincide with the Euro 2016 tournament, West Mercia Women's Aid is aiming to raise awareness of domestic abuse.

Research suggests that during big sporting events reports of domestic violence increase; the statistics make for sobering reading. During the 2006 World Cup held in Germany, Home Office data showed a 31 per cent rise in domestic violence reports on the day of England's 1-0 victory over Paraguay. On the day of England's exit from the tournament, beaten on penalties by Portugal, reports increased by just over 30 per cent. On average there was a 25 per cent rise in domestic violence reports on the days of England games, with one in four offenders found to be under the influence of alcohol.

We support those affected by domestic abuse and help them to explore options to tackle their situation, particularly at a time when emotions can be heightened.

For further information call West Mercia Women's Aid on (01432) 356146.

JAN FRANCES
Chief executive

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Readers' Letters,
Oswestry Chronicle,
Ketley,
Telford, TF1 5HU

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chronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Hedges need to be cut back

I SAW a couple of people having to step into a main road because the hedge was right over the footpath. Ask why the hedge is not cut and the answer is, we are not allowed till August because of the birds nests, but it's okay to risk killing people.

In towns and villages there are lots of overgrown hedges obstructing the pavements. Why do householders think it's the council's job to cut their hedges for them? Just think of others who use the paths.

RON JONES
St Martins

Glad to be wrong about outcome of big referendum

I WAS wrong! Months ago I forecast in this paper that the cynical, devious and totally undemocratic European Union would not allow Brexit to happen – that billions of our money would be used to make sure it did not happen, but it did, despite the thoroughly disgraceful campaign by the Tories.

We have endured a month of those in power lying to us on the subject – the Prime Minister, Chancellor, the Treasury, the CBI, the IMF and the Governor of the Bank of England, all earning their EU fees by frightening the life out of us but the strength of character of the British working class has prevailed against all the odds. Can we assume that, those who voted 'stay' and can afford it will take the opportunity to move to another member country while they have the chance thereby avoiding all the horrors, financial and otherwise Britain now faces, predicted by their peers? Let the rest of us stand or fall by our own efforts rather than act as the third-world milch cow of the European dictatorship.

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Leave popular songs alone

THE Women's Institute, which is one of our greatest institutions, if not the greatest of our time, is now coming under fire for singing Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory at one of the hundreds of birthday parties for our Queen, all because some of the younger ladies think that the tunes are outdated and old fashioned in these modern times.

The younger members have never really known any real hardship.

One main one refers to the bringing up of children these days, the older generation never had any payment from the government or benefits as they get today, the youngsters do not know just how lucky they are. Long Live the Women's Institute and their so-called old fashioned songs.

Apart from Andrew Lloyd Webber there are no songwriters out there to write anything as good today, the music is just loud and unintelligible. I understand that the senior ladies told the younger ones that if they did not like it then they could leave, the door is always open.

Another British institution is The Salvation Army, or to anyone who did military service known as the Sally Anns, you could always get a cup of tea and a wad for sixpence – long may they also continue.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

NFU team in with a chance of glory

NFU workers are revelling in their success after being named a finalist at the Powys Business Awards 2016.

The NFU Welshpool team entered the Agricultural Business Award in the business scheme and now look forward to facing the next stages of the entry process.

The award looks for businesses that demonstrate commercial success, evidence of growth, innovation, diversification and a committed support for the local rural economy and community.

Stephen Kenyon, senior agent at NFU Welshpool, said: "My team is absolutely ecstatic to have made it through as a finalist at Powys Business Awards.

"This is a great achievement and a real boost to team morale.

"Our local branch of the NFU is here to offer a valuable support to our local farming community.

"We now have over 150 members who come to us for advice, to seek guidance on topical farming issues and as a support network."

Advice over £18 million power plan

LANDOWNERS and property occupiers along the preferred route of new 132,000-volt overhead power lines are being urged to seek professional advice if they are affected by the £18 million project.

Shaun Jones, a rural professional director at Shrewsbury-based surveyor and auctioneers Halls, has advised landowners and property occupiers to carefully consider the plans for the heavy duty lines that are due to be set up between Oswestry and Wem.

He said it was important that people who felt they would be affected by the project had their say during consultation. Scottish Power Energy Networks said consultation about the upgrade, which will benefit Oswestry, Wem and Whitchurch, has begun.

Housing group raises concerns over changes

By Dominic Robertson

A SOCIAL housing provider managing 4,200 properties has warned changes to Government legislation could lead to a reduction in the number of homes available.

STAR Housing, which manages more than 4,000 social housing homes in Oswestry and Bridgnorth, says new management arrangements are being considered in an effort to safeguard the number of homes available to the most vulnerable.

Currently there are 6,000 people on the waiting list for social housing in Shropshire. Sue Adams, managing director of STAR Housing, said the company had achieved considerable success since it was set up, particularly ensuring that 100 per cent of homes meet Government living standards.However, Mrs Adams said that the Housing and Planning Act being introduced by the Government could have serious implications on the company's ability to maintain its number of homes.

She said: "There are a couple of things coming in with that that we feel could cause issues for us in the longer term. One is around pay to stay, which unfairly means any money raised by raising working tenants' rents has to be given back to the Government. That is not the same for housing associations."

The changes in the law could also mean that when high value properties become vacant they may well have to be sold, with the proceeds being used to fund the Government's right to buy scheme in housing associations, which allows tenants to buy their own homes. Around 400 properties could be affected by the policy, which would lead to a loss of around £50 million to STAR Housing over 30 years.

Hospice benefits from fundraisers

George and Julie Miah hand over the cheque for £2,100 to Lynsey Kilvert from Hope House Hospice

HOPE House Children's Hospice is quids in thanks to the generosity of an Oswestry restaurant and its customers.

The hospice, based at Morda near Oswestry, is £2,100 better off thanks to fundraising evenings at the Simla Restaurant.

Restaurant owner George Miah and his wife Julie have been holding fundraising evenings since 1988.

This year the restaurant held two fundraising evenings because it was celebrating its 40th anniversary. Hope House was chosen as one of the charities to benefit from the events.

Mr Miah said he estimates in total between £70,000 to £80,000 has been raised for charity and good causes through the fundraising events over the years.

Julie and George Miah recently visited the hospice to present the cheque to area fundraising Lynsey Kilvert.

She said: "We cannot thank George and Julie enough for their continued support. Over the years we have received over £6,000 from their fundraising at the restaurant which is fantastic.

"Without the support of people like George, Julie, their staff and their customers we simply could not exist.

"Everyone at Hope House would like to wish the Simla a happy 40th anniversary with many more to come."

Activists are needed to help area's book project

YOUNG people are being offered a chance to gain valuable work experience and skills to put on their CV through helping children with their reading.

Libraries across Powys are looking for "summer reading activists" to work with them from mid-July to encourage younger children to enjoy reading and take part in the annual Summer Reading Challenge.

Summer reading activists need to be between the ages of 14 and 22.

Trish Thomas, Powys County Council's children's librarian, said: "We are looking for talented young people to volunteer their time to promote reading to children over the summer holidays.

"If you love books, are happy to listen to children read, help out in the library and assist in organising craft and presentation events, then we want to hear from you."

Ellen Swift, a young reading activist from Welshpool High School in 2015, said: "Being a reading activist over the summer was a very rewarding experience that I would love to do again. It made feel proud when I saw children enjoying the books they were reading and getting excited over completing the challenge.

"Even the children who didn't read much in their free time completed the challenge after having fun at the craft sessions and that made me feel satisfied and accomplished. Not only did the scheme help me raise my confidence in talking to families and young children but it was also a lovely place to come."

People interested in becoming a summer reading activist can ask for an information pack from their local library.

Alternatively they can email patricia.thomas@powys.gov.uk or call (01597) 826884 for further information about the scheme.

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Theresa May will be 'top rate PM' says MP Davies

MONTGOMERYSHIRE MP Glyn Davies has welcomed the election of Theresa May as Prime Minister.

Glyn Davies, a Conservative MP, said: "Theresa May will be a top rate Prime Minister; determined, unruffled by difficult situations, and with the calm approach that we need to unify our country after the turbulence and division of the EU Referendum.

"I have always found her approachable and ready to listen. She knows Montgomeryshire well and recently met local farming unions at Dyffryn Farm, Meifod. Many years ago, as a new MP she spent a day canvassing with me around Berriew, as I started out on my own political career. I have always liked and respected her.

"Her first major challenge will be to reassure the majority who voted in favour of the UK leaving the EU, that she is committed to leaving. Personally, I have not the slightest doubt that Theresa will implement the 'Voice of the People" who turned out in huge numbers across the UK, across Wales and across Powys to vote to Leave. Britain has a new Prime Minister."

North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson had backed Andrea Leadsom to replace David Cameron as PM. He said he felt "fed up" and "very disappointed" that she had pulled out of the leadership race.

He said that she had "done the noble thing", adding: "I'm confident she would have won it, and we'd seen quite a sharp increase in our North Shropshire members, who were really enthusiastic at the prospect of hustings events with her.

"Now I wish Theresa May all the very best in delivering the demands of 17.4 million people who voted to leave the EU."

Prestigious award for college's student union

Report by Sue Austin

STAFF and students at Gobowen's Derwen College are celebrating winning a prestigious award.

The specialist college for students with learning difficulties has won the further education students' union award at the National Union of Students Awards 2016.

It was the only specialist college shortlisted.

The students' union was named the best of the year for its excellent examples of accessible democracy. Judges commended the union's work influencing healthcare provision in the local community by involving learners in the consultation process.

The union has gained a Grade 1 Ofsted report and focuses on the needs of students at all time.

The award was presented at a ceremony in Liverpool as part of the Students' Unions conference 2016.

Almost 1,000 student leaders, speakers and NUS staff took part in the two-day conference.

Keynote speakers at the conference included former British wheelchair racer, parliamentarian and television presenter Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, hip hop artist, writer and educator Akala and UK Black Pride founder and executive director Phyll Opoku-Gyimah.

Sarah Laszlo, Derwen College students' union learner voice coordinator, said: "It's just incredible to win this award. To be pitched against four mainstream colleges, it's fabulous to win. I think we're the only specialist college who was shortlisted so it's just enormous. Congratulations to everyone else who was shortlisted and I just feel incredibly lucky."

£2m holiday home park launch

Castle View Holiday Home Park occupies a prime position, with Harlech Castle as a majestic backdrop

THE organisers of the inaugural Harlech Caravan and Lodge Festival from July 22-24 are hoping to attract thousands of visitors to the seaside resort.

The festival, which will include a range of family entertainment, has been organised to officially launch a new £2 million caravan holiday home park in the town. Castle View Holiday Home Park occupies a prime position, nestling between the town and its beautiful, sandy beach with Harlech Castle as a majestic backdrop and with Royal St David's Golf Club and Harlech Railway Station nearby. The park has pitches for 60 caravan holiday homes and is already proving popular with owners from Shropshire, the West Midlands and North West England. Visitors to the festival, which is being held on the adjacent Min-y-Don Holiday Park, will be treated to live music, medieval archery and a programme of events taking in local attractions from 10am to 4pm each day.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soccer contest to kick off again

A LONG-running and popular local charity football tournament marks its 42nd year when this summer's competition kicks off on Sunday.

The Graham Edwards Memorial Trophy is named in memory of a promising young footballer from Gobowen who sadly died of leukaemia aged just 21 in 1974.

The tournament, with all the matches played at Gobowen Playing Field, was set up the following year.

The tournament is one of the longest running charity tournaments in the country, and will be contested by eight teams in two groups of four.

All money raised goes to Leukaemia Research.

The opening game of this year's competition sees St Martins take on Kinnerley on Sunday.

That game starts at 3pm.

The match will be followed by FC Oswestry against Gobowen Celtic at 6pm.

On Monday, TNS under-19s face Dudleston Heath. Kick-off time for that game is 6.45pm.

Cuts 'will affect provision of SEN'

CUTS to local government funding settlements could have a "detrimental effect" on services for vulnerable children, it has been claimed.

Russell George, Assembly Member for Montgomeryshire, said poor local government settlements for many of Wales's rural areas are having a devastating impact on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, including in Powys.

New figures show that budgeted gross expenditure on SEN provision is falling for 2016/17 by 5.5 per cent in Powys, 7.7 per cent in Isle of Anglesey, four per cent in Carmarthenshire and 2.8 per cent in Ceredigion.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two gardens open to boost charities

TWO gardens in Welshpool will be open under the National Gardens Scheme from 2pm to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

A first for the NGS is Elmhurst in Severn Road (SY21 7AR) home of Dr Tony Solomon and built originally as a residence for Miss Clive a niece of Clive of India.

The large gardens have recently been revamped and offer lawns, magnificent shrub borders, rose beds and a very large vegetable garden.

On a totally different scale is Oak Cottage number 23 High Street (SY21 7JP) but accessed from Bowling Green Lane.

This small garden is a plantsman's garden providing an oasis of green in the town centre with a very wide variety of plants including some very unusual species and many alpines.

Organisers say a special joint admission ticket to the two gardens is available at £5.50.

Manoeuvre 'could have led to injury'

A DANGEROUS overtaking manoeuvre could have resulted in serious injury, police have said.

Newtown Roads Policing Unit is investigating an overtaking manoeuvre on the A458 Llanfair Caereinion to Welshpool road at the top of Golfa Bank.

The overtake is believed to have been carried out by the driver of a red/maroon coloured Honda Civic Type R or similar vehicle heading towards Welshpool and caused an oncoming Ford Ka to take evasive action and suffered collision damage from mounting the verge.

The incident occurred at about 11.25pm on June 26.

The roads policing unit are now looking to identify the driver of the vehicle.

Plans for poultry unit is set for the go-ahead

Report by Naomi Penrose

PROPOSALS to build an intensive poultry unit housing up to 100,000 chickens look set to be approved.

The plans have been submitted by applicants Ystym Colwyn Farms to Powys County Council for the erection of intensive poultry unit comprising two buildings, construction of vehicular access and associated works at Ystym Colwyn in Meifod.

The authority's planning, taxi licensing and rights of way committee will meet today (Thursday) to consider the application, which is recommended for approval.

Permission is sought for the erection of two broiler units to include six feed bins, a generator store, an office, shower room, control room, tool room, toilet, hardstanding to front of sheds for turning, loading and unloading, a new vehicular access and landscaping proposals.

The proposed broiler units would have the potential to accommodate 100,000 birds in total and each measure about 115 metres by 18.5 metres with a building measuring 6.4 metres by 10 metres located in between the two poultry units.

The total floor area for each shed would be 2,127.5 square metres.

The proposed new access would be constructed off the A490 via a new access track.

Members of Meifod Community Council agreed to support the application, with no objections received.

The community council also said there are no nearby dwellings that would be affected by the development.

It is understood that some local employment might result from the proposal.

The council's taxi licensing and rights of way committee will meet at 10am today at the Council Chamber at Neuadd Maldwyn in Welshpool.

Temporary war exhibition on display

Eva Bredsdorff shows off some of the exhibits at the Powysland Museum

A NEW temporary exhibition commemorating World War One and the harsh reality of life for soldiers stuck in rat-infested trenches has gone on show at a museum.

Powysland Museum curator Eva Bredsdorff said: "Much of the fighting during World War One took place in no-man's-land between defensive trenches created by the warring armies. For many soldiers, these trenches became their home for several years and they had to adopt to often horrific living conditions including flooding, rats, diseases and lice. "There was also boredom, interspersed with 'going-over-the-top' military manoeuvers which gained little or no results but caused the death and injury of thousands of young men. The displays look at a number of aspects of trench war including daily life, leisure time, 'trench-art', gas-attacks, heroism and death." She said the displays will be based on the museum's own collection of war memorabilia and objects in Welshpool. "For the 2016 exhibition the museum is focusing on the war in the trenches, especially on the Western Front, where so many young men lost their lives – including soldiers from Welshpool and Montgomeryshire," she added. The exhibition runs until September 13.

Man fined by court over water rules

A MAN was fined £660 for failing to give his local authority information about his private water supply.

Robert Lewis of Pontrobert, Meifod, near Welshpool, was prosecuted under Section 85 of the Water Industry Act 1991 for not returning an RFI notice about his private water supply.

Now Powys County Council's environmental protection team is warning residents who have a private water supply to return their information to the council when they receive a requisition for information (RFI) notice or they could face prosecution.

Mr Lewis was found guilty at Llandrindod Wells Magistrates Court. He was fined £660 and also ordered to pay £150 investigation costs, £100 legal costs and a £66 victim surcharge.

Councillor John Powell, cabinet member for environmental protection, said: "The council has a duty to maintain an accurate record of all private water supplies in the county and we send out questionnaires to all those properties we believe is served by a private water supply to collect this data.

"The replies provide very useful information during pollution incidents."

Improvements on way at woodland

A WOODLAND will enjoy a revival which will improve the site for animals and visitors thanks to a partnership between a wildlife charity and a supermarket's plastic bag levy.

Deri Woods will receive a cash injection of £12,000 thanks to Tesco's Bags of Help scheme.

The scheme has awarded the sum to a collaborative project between Llanfair Caereinion Town Council, which owns Deri Woods, and Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust to improve the site.

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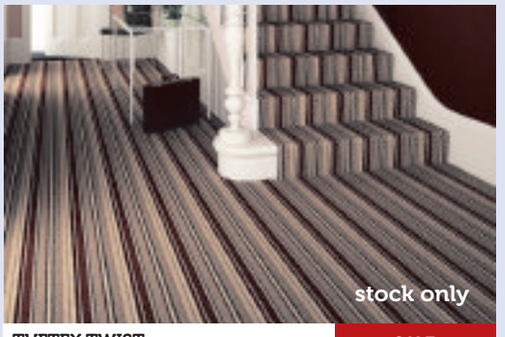

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Lovely town has great history

Montgomery has a fascinating history and has well known landmarks throughout the town

Views from Montgomery stretch over the Powys/Shropshire border

VISITORS are sure of a warm welcome when they come to the historic market town of Montgomery.

The town has a fascinating history as can be seen in its mixture of timber framed houses and Georgian and Victorian architecture.

For a relatively small town, Montgomery has many well-known landmarks.

One of the landmarks is Montgomery Town Hall. The town hall was built in 1748 to replace an earlier guildhall which previously stood in the middle of Broad Street.

Another well known landmark, which offers fantastic views of the surrounding area, is the town's hilltop castle.

Situated on the Welsh border, Montgomery grew up around its hilltop castle, built in the 13th century.

Report by Naomi Penrose

During the Civil War, the castle was captured by Parliamentary forces and subsequently damaged to remove its military threat.

Montgomery has a thriving community and offers a wealth of activity for visitors and newcomers alike.

Situated close to the Offa's Dyke path, Montgomery is an excellent stopping off point providing a wealth of warm and friendly places to stay as well as places to eat and drink.

The town also had a great community spirit and events are held throughout the year to bring people together.

The town council is involved in many of these events and one of the most popular is the Senior Citizen Christmas Party.

This year's event was held at the town hall and saw the building full of merriment and excitement as locals settled down to an afternoon of excellent food and entertainment all laid on and served by the town council committee, friends and family.

The town's great community spirit was further demonstrated in April this year when Montgomery residents attended the lighting of a beacon in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday. And in June this year a further tradition was held in the town when the traditional mayor making ceremony was staged.

Other traditional events held in the town this year include the town council's civic service and a street party to mark the Queen's 90th birthday.

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Show Marquee

8.00am - 10.00am - Staging of Exhibits

10.15am - Judging of Exhibits

Broad Street & Chirbury Road

12.00pm - Carnival Classes 1-8 assemble on Broad St. for judging Carnival Floats assemble on Chirbury Rd

12.30pm - Carnival Floats join Classes 1-8 Broad Street & proceed to the Show Ground

Main Show

12.45pm Carnival Classes & Floats line up judging of floats by president

1.00pm Opening of Show by Presidents

1.15pm Crowing of Carnival Queen

2.00pm Reel Stunts in Action 1st Display

3.00pm 1st Sports Day Races

3.30pm Vintage Vehicle Parade

4.30pm Reel Stunts in Action 2nd Display

5.00pm 2nd Sports Day Race / Tug of War

5.30pm Show Closes / Removal of Exhibits

Show Field, Marquee & Tents

1.15pm Knighton Silver Band

2.00pm Dog Show Commences

2.15pm Ronnie Crackers 1st Magic Show

3.30pm Ronnie Crackers 2nd Magic Show

3.45pm Presentation of Cups, Medals, Certificates & Grand Draw

4.00pm Potato in a Bucket Competition

4.30pm Payment of Prize Money in the Main Tent

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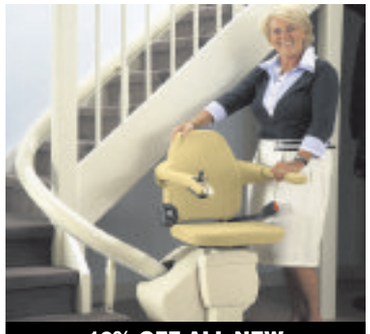

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Lydia Briton, left, and Felicity Szekely with their lovely cakes

Large crowds turned out for the 10th annual Oswestry Food and Drink Festival

Isaac Briton with some of his non-alcoholic cocktails

Taste of success

Report by Sue Austin

THE streets were packed and aromas of foods from across the globe filled the air as Oswestry celebrated a decade of food festivals at the weekend.

The 10th Oswestry Food and Drink Festival brought people to the town from across the region to enjoy samples and cooking demonstrations, two beer festivals and musical entertainment.

Stalls packed Cross Street and Bailey Street running up to the Bailey Head outdoor and indoor market and crowds thronged the pedestrianised areas on both Saturday and Sunday.

Many of the traders were local food producers who said the two-day event was an ideal way to showcase what they had to offer. Traditional butcher Jamie Ward, from Whittington, has been involved with the festival since its inceptions. "This is great for the town and for food producers. People come from as far afield as Warrington and Wigan and many follow the circuit of food festivals – there is a real foodie culture in this country.

"People are more interested these days in where their meat comes from and while they may not eat so much meat as in the past they want quality."

Town councillor and stall holder Amanda Woof sells Aunty Mo's sausage rolls and scotch eggs. She said: "As long as we continue to have special events like these throughout the summer we will continue to attract people into Oswestry. Each year we have our regular customers as well as new ones who visit the food festival."

Many shops, pubs and cafes and regular market stall holders reported a busy weekend trade.

Grace Goodland, owner and licensee of The Bailey Head pub, said it had been packed on Saturday.

Chris Toller and Heather Hodgson from Stonehouse Brewery. Photos: John Sambrooks.

Lucy Jenkins from Swifts Bakery at Oswestry Food and Drink Festival

There were plenty of tasty treats on offer at the popular festival in Oswestry

Chrissie Ashworth with some of her homemade cakes

Julie Shutt and Yordunos Lomax with some of their cocktails at the festival

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Top tips to make your home decorating easier

Decorating experts say it is important to apply a little of a new colour to each wall

SUMMER is the best season to decorate because the days are longer and lighter, so is it time to give your home's walls a new look?

Report by Naomi Penrose

A wall colour you don't like is hard to live with and as there are so many different colours and finishes to choose from, it's important to try a new paint first.

It is a good idea to apply a little of a new colour to each wall, so you get the full effect and can see how it looks at different times of the day.

Printed colour charts aren't accurate, so don't rely on them, and the same is true of paint colours viewed online – always try the paint in the room it'll be used in.

Once you've found an emulsion you like, you'll need to work out how much to buy.

The paint tin will have information on coverage, and you can use an online paint calculator to work out how much paint is needed per room.

These calculators take into account things like the size of the walls, windows and doors, but not the type of emulsion you're using or the state of the walls themselves.

As soon as you start applying an emulsion, you'll be able to see how well it covers and get an idea of how many coats you'll have to do. The quality of the emulsion will affect the number of coats, as will the state of the walls.

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Karim Abdul with his award for most improved student and Jill Cawthray

Vicky Clemson with Ben Francis, who won the award for best contribution

Daina Davies, hospitality and catering student, and Sue Austin

Awards at college

Report by Sue Austin

IT has been awards time at North Shropshire College.

The commercial services department of the college held its awards ceremony at the Oswestry campus, celebrating three areas within the department – hair and beauty, hospitality and catering and construction.

The vocational subjects have their own practical areas in the college and some students are able to experience a taste of the world of work thanks to the college's own hair and beauty salon, Visage, and the Scholars restaurant.

Sharon Cooper, head of department, said: "Our students have had a jam packed year – they've competed at the World Skills UK again, given up their own time to volunteer at Hope House Hospice and Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital, worked in France and much more. Their success is a testament to the staff and students hard work."

Oswestry and Border Chronicle reporter Sue Austin was asked to present some of the awards to the winners.

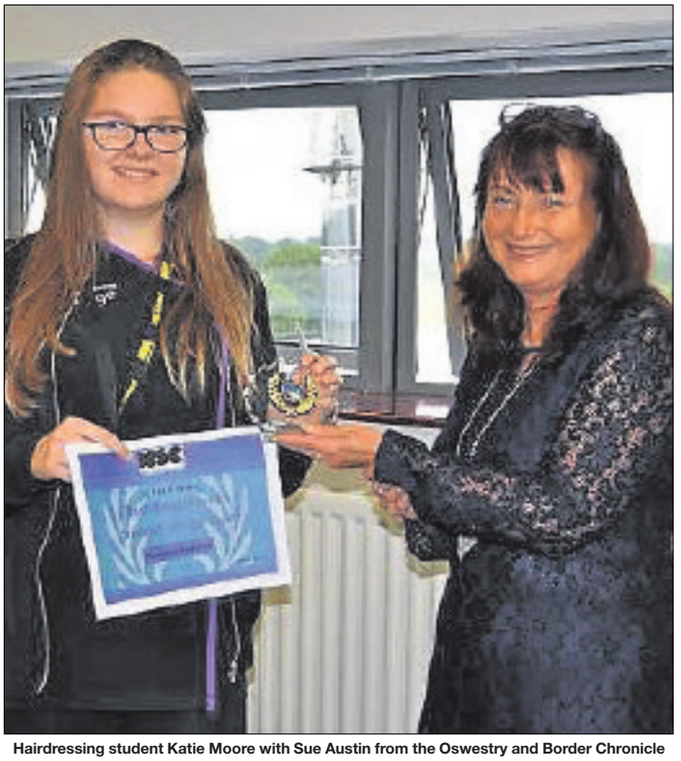
The Access to Higher Education students also recently celebrated their success at an awards event in the training restaurant Scholars. Karim Abdul was named as the most improved student of the year.

He has successfully completed his Access to HE humanities course and will be starting at Manchester Metropolitan University in September studying economics and business.

At the award ceremony Karim Abdul, Jayne Morris and Nadine Woods were the HE student voice award winners.

Other award winners included Emma Bojcun while Ben Francis won the award for best contribution to the access course.

Jill Cawthray and Vicky Clemson from the college handed out the awards to the winners.



Hairdressing student Katie Moore with Sue Austin from the Oswestry and Border Chronicle

Olivia Williams, beauty student, and Jackie Doodson, college principal

Access to HE student voice award winners Karim Abdul, Jayne Morris and Nadine Woods

Barry Hereward, bricklaying student, and Sue Austin

Emma Bojcun, left, receiving her award from lecturer Vicky Clemson

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Substantial house has around two acres of grounds

ELLESMERE £675,000

A substantial six-bedroom period house with around two acres of grounds within walking distance of the town, Grove House, Elson Road, Ellesmere is for sale through Balfours at £675,000.

It has an entrance hall, a sitting room, dining room, large kitchen, conservatory/garden room, snooker room, study, utility and cloakroom/WC, master bedroom suite, two further en-suite bedrooms, three further bedrooms, a bathroom, office, pond, shed and shelter, patio, garage and 1.8 acres.

Grove House is situated in a popular residential area of Ellesmere, a small market town in the heart of Shropshire.

It has a range of local amenities and recreational facilities together with excellent primary and secondary schools, including the reputable Ellesmere College.

Grove House is a period brick property believed to date back to 1920 with a more recent extension providing spacious flexible accommodation.

On the ground floor there are four reception rooms, two with fireplaces and bay windows. There is also a welcoming entrance hall, large family kitchen, study and cloakroom.

On the first floor, the large master bedroom has a dressing room, en suite bathroom and a balcony overlooking the field and surrounding countryside. There are two additional en suite bedrooms, three further bedrooms, a family bathroom and an office.

Outside there is a driveway, garage, patio, paddock and pond. Road networks in the area are good, whilst a local rail service can be found at Gobowen connecting to intercity services at Shrewsbury, Birmingham and Manchester. The nearby town of Shrewsbury has a wider range of services including shopping, educational and recreational facilities. The town has a good selection of both private and state schools.

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Primesave works with buyers from the beginning, providing high quality homes

Primesave provides invaluable support throughout the buying process

PRIMESAVE Properties, a family owned home developer based in Shropshire, builds new homes for first-time buyers through to family homes in the county, with new developments also launching in North Wales this summer.

Advertisement feature

Specialising in selling off-plan properties (recent developments at Kinnerley, Minsterley and St Martins all sold off plan, with the two-bed properties all being sold within two weeks of being released) – Primesave works with buyers from the beginning, providing high quality homes for all, and allowing owners to create homes that are designed to match their design preferences and lifestyles.

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Primesave Properties currently have a number of two-bed homes in Morda and at their upcoming site in Penley, as well as three-bed properties at Minsterley which will be on show at the site open day at Linden Fields, Little Minsterley, Saturday.

If you would like to know more about Primesave Properties or register interest for first time buyer schemes and future developments – please register online at www.primesave-properties.co.uk.

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A thoughtful fan watches the action unfold

The game brought friends together at the Chirk AAA club

There was plenty of noise from the fans at the Chirk AAA club

Friends got together at the Chirk AAA club to support Wales against Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal in the Euro 2016 semi-final

Supporters raise a glass to Wales during the game

Fans were nearly going head over heels at the Chirk AAA club

Hands up if you want a win – the fans support the team

Welsh fans cheer on their team in the Euro 2016 semi-final

Welsh fans cheer on their team in the Euro 2016 semi-final

There were plenty of tense moments as fans watched Chris Coleman's team

Fans watched with hope as Wales came up against Portugal

Fans of all ages attended the Chirk AAA club to watch the semi-final. Photos: Steve Leath.

The red pride and the passion

WELSH passion, pride and pretty good singing – supporters in Chirk near Oswestry summed up the spirit of Wales throughout the Euro 2016 football championships.

Report by Sue Austin

Hundreds of fans filled not one but three rooms at the town's AAA club on Wednesday last week to cheer on Gareth Bale and the boys as they took on Portugal.

Despite their country's 2-0 semi-final defeat to Portugal, the overwhelming feeling among Wales supporters was one of pride.

Licensee Nigel Edwards turned the club into a Wales fanzone with flags and bunting and customers arrived in the red, green and black of the strip and face painted dragons on their faces.

But it was when the Welsh anthem began the fans showed their real passion. They belted out Canol Lan with such fine voices they would do themselves credit at the Llangollen Eisteddfod a few miles up the Dee Valley. Once Wales conceded two quick fire goals early in the second half the mood among fans was sombre. Faces fell and nails were bitten. But with minutes left – just as in Lyon's Stade des Lumières – the chant of "Wales, Wales" rang around the club.

Mr Edwards said the support in the town for Wales during the tournament had been incredible.

"It's been packed out here every game and we've had absolutely no trouble," he said. "It is great for Wales and great for Chirk.

Laurie Gardener was back in Chirk after a trip to France to see the qualifiers.

"It was fantastic, the best thing I have ever done," he said.

"The atmosphere was just incredible The supporters were brilliant and there was no trouble at all. And the team were superb."

Mike Hughes, a greengrocer, said: "This has just been massive for Wales. Wales has done so well because they play so well as a team. They are committed and play with passion.

"From grass roots up Welsh football is on the rise.

"This is just the beginning. The world can watch out for Wales now."

Welsh footballing pride brought the community of Chirk together

It's almost unbearable as Wales come so close

Nails were bitten as the football fever gripped Chirk's AAA club

Secrets under the surface

ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams

THE child squatted on the bank, his floppy-brimmed hat covering his forehead, his white T-shirt advertising the temperature and the season and his sky blue shorts mirroring the scene above.

Carefully he brushed away a segment of blonde fringe from his eyes. The sun was not yet high but it was bright enough to pierce the layers of liquid and when it found the gravel and silt below, the water was clear enough to permit the darts of playful dazzlings to reflect upon his face in fluid wanderings of silver and gold. He narrowed his stare and focused.

A mallard led her brood downstream. A soft, warm breeze was ruffling the pasture around him in mesmerising waves of green, buffeting his bare legs and pushing both grass blades and nettles against them.

Rite

He felt each barbed needle inject its poison into his skin but he paid them no heed. He would know the shooting pain as he had a hundred times before, and later he would hunt out a patch of dock and rub the broad, mature, red-flecked leaves into the angry bumps like some ancient rite before looking forward to the delicious tingle that followed and lingered long after the initial irritation.

But this was a lifetime away, for the thing that presented itself before him now was in desperate need of his uttermost attention; one slip, one flinch, one careless movement and the chance would be gone – forever.

He had stalked the margins of the stream for patient hours and finally he saw it.

A long, dark shape moving from beneath the disturbed stone. Of serpentine form and grace of movement, it slid along the pebbles and mud of the bottom moving quickly upstream and away. He clambered up the bank, great clods of earth ripped from their moorings in a frantic effort to gain a vantage point. He could not lose this prize. It was a colossus, an eel of conger-esque proportions and no doubt as savage.

He raced through the grass and cow pats, sweat beading from his pale forehead, heart racing, adrenaline pumping. Fleetingly he paused to survey the pool into which the beast had fled. And there it was. The eel had slowed now and seemed at ease.

The child, hidden by the flowering stems of balsam and an occasional willow, its lower boughs strewn with the flotsam and jetsam of floods passed, lowered his profile in the classic stalk of a predator absolutely intent on its prey.

He reached the lip of the bank again and peered down into the calm yet browned waters, stained slightly by mud and cow dung.

And there it was, its body slowly undulating on a horizontal plane, its pointed snout every so often drawn back and pushed into the mud in search of its own prey.

It moved with a sinuous grace through sun and shadow and with a purpose that filled the young child with fascination and a hundred questions. But they would have to wait, for this was a once in a lifetime vision, the wildest of all fish; a traveller of epic achievement, a creature that knew more of the currents within the mighty ocean than any sailor and more of riverine navigation than any gillie could hope to and now it was here in front of him; a secretive and rare sight and one of the most prized catches imaginable.

It doesn't matter if I caught that eel or not, I will leave the story there. It is simply a case of knowing a little of the natural world, of keeping one's eyes open and of wanting to delve deeper into the fascinations that lie beneath the surface, literally or metaphorically.

Discover more about Ben at his artwork at benwaddams.com

The Explorer – oil on board – by Ben Waddams

Cabbie fears for future because of new regulations

A TAXI driver who has been working on the Shropshire border patch for 20 years says he can't afford £25,000 to buy a new taxi that complies with new disabled regulations which he claims could put him and car hire firms out of business.

Gary Pottinger, of Gary Pottinger Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles in Llangollen, fears his disabled customers will lose out because of the "new Euro five emission regulations" that have been set up to protect them because taxi drivers like himself can't afford to update their vehicles.

He said: "I have a disabled use vehicle that I have been using as a taxi for years but it isn't complying with the new regulations so I will have to take it off the road from this August when its plate runs out. I cannot afford to replace it so I won't be able to have disabled customers. I'm just not in a position to have that kind of money. When my disabled customers hear this it will come as a shock to them.

"The regulations came in two years ago but taxi businesses are only just beginning to feel the financial impact of them now. I often get calls from wheelchair users and I have contracts at schools for wheelchair-accessible school runs.

"I work in England and Wales and, as far as I know, Shropshire Council is the only local council to have brought these new rules in. I've not been made aware of any such stipulations from Wrexham County Borough Council or Denbighshire County Council.

"Shropshire Council has sent me direct correspondence to comply with."

Karen Collier, Shropshire Council's operations manager for health and community protection, said: "The fundamental purpose of Shropshire Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2015-19 is to protect the safety and welfare of the public who live, work and visit Shropshire.

"While we understand the individuals concerns, since the policy came into effect in April 2015, we know of a number of people who have done what the policy requires of them in terms of getting the right vehicles to satisfy the requirements.

"The safety of all our residents and visitors is absolutely paramount and we have to, as a council, put that at the forefront of the public safety process. This policy therefore strengthens our commitment to people in Shropshire.

"Our officers are happy to provide advice on the options available to businesses.

Taxi drivers can e-mail: licensing@shropshire.gov.uk or call 0345 678 9046.

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Entertainment Unleashed

An Albanian folk ensemble were led by their peace ambassador Fitim Mimari, proudly waving his country's huge red and black national flag.

Llangollen's streets were packed with colour when the Eisteddfod parade was staged through the town

Nations unite for big parade

THOUSANDS lined the streets of Llangollen to cheer the biggest International Musical Eisteddfod parade in years.

The event was moved to a Friday for the first time to give more competitors arriving from around the world the chance to march through the heart of the Welsh town to the accompaniment of rousing cheers and applause from a record number of onlookers.

A rainbow array of banners and national flags fluttered above them as they walked, danced and made music, processing from the Eisteddfod field, down Abbey Road, across the historic centuries-old bridge and on into the town centre where the main roads had been closed off especially for the occasion.

Heading the parade, which took about 20 minutes to go by any one point, was Llangollen's bearded town crier Austin Cheminais with mayor and mayoress Mike and Melanie Adams and the Llangollen Silver Band.

Eisteddfod President Terry Waite waved to the cheering crowds from his seat aboard a vintage Vauxhall with eisteddfod chairman Dr Rhys Davies riding in the back. Behind them came a procession of competitors beneath their national flags including those of countries as far away as the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Indonesia and China.

Among the most eye-catching was a contingent of youngsters from Zimbabwe in their dazzling national costumes.

An Albanian folk ensemble were led by their peace ambassador Fitim Mimari, proudly waving his country's huge red and black national flag. Attracting huge applause as they brought up the rear of the parade was a group of Indonesian youngsters in their multi-coloured crinoline dresses.

Eisteddfod chairman Rhys Davies, who had backed the idea of moving the parade to Friday from Tuesday, said: "We had a tremendous response from the competitors from all over the world who turned out in their hundreds and it was great to see so many people lining the streets as well."

Report by Sue Austin

Performers from all corners of the globe took part in this year's Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod

A madrigal choir from California in the USA took part in the Eisteddfod parade

Hedda Steine and Nora Dahl from Norway are all smiles

Town crier Austin Cheminais with Sukhjit Singh from the Punjab

Elliot Bibby from the Flying Burrito Brothers in Shrewsbury

A Welsh welcome

Report by Sue Austin

"LLANGOLLEN – where Wales welcomes the World."

The motto of the International Musical Eisteddfod was as true last week as it has always been as the festival celebrated its 70th anniversary.

A grand pavilion has replaced the large tent set up to host the first event at the end of the Second World War and the eisteddfod now attracts competitors and stars from not only Europe but across the globe.

But each is given a welcome as warm as that afforded to the Spanish choir that was the first to arrive in the town 70 years ago or the post-war German children's choir described by Dylan Thomas as "pigtailed angels".

This year's overseas competition included those from Europe, Scandinavia, Africa, India, America and the Caribbean, Indonesia and Australia. Closer to home, there have been groups from Wales, England, and Scotland.

A folk group from Albania arrived with just one member able to speak a very small amount of English. Its 13 members were hosted by villagers in Overton-on-Dee on the Shropshire border. They also welcomed a 35-strong group from the Czech Republic.

Carol Dykes, Overton's eisteddfod organiser, said the language barrier was "interesting".

"We used sign language and they all called me 'mama'," she said.

"Overton has been hosting eisteddfod competitors for years. It is a great thing to do – even though you might end up sleeping on the sofa or in the box room for a few nights.

Thousands of people attended the eisteddfod. Eisteddfod life president Gethin Davies said this year's evening concerts had been exceptional. Among the top acts this year were Jools Holland and Bryn Terfel.

Bishop Anstey High School from Trinidad hit the right notes. Photos: Steve Leath.

From 21 Strings China, Zihan Geng and Shanling Chen

Highcliffe Youth Choir from Dorset take part in the Eisteddfod

Alexander Stavem from Norway meets the wildlife

Leo the Lion gets to know members of the Philharmonic Youth Choir from Liverpool

The best musical talent from around the world came to the Eisteddfod

Thousands of visitors came from near and far to enjoy the Eisteddfod

There was much to see and do at the cultural extravaganza

There was plenty of Welsh pride on display at the Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod

Youngsters had plenty of time for fun and games at the Eisteddfod

The odd rain shower could not dampen spirits at the Eisteddfod

Gorilla sculptures provided by the British Ironwork Centre at Oswestry proved popular with visitors

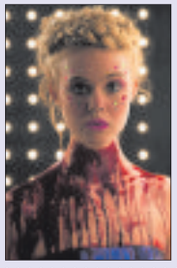
Cinema listings

MAGGIE'S PLAN (15)

Good plan – 7/10

A young academic resorts to drastic measures to solve her romantic woes. Maggie (Greta Gerwig) is a member of staff at a college in New York, who yearns to be a mother and intends to inseminate herself with sperm from a local pickle entrepreneur called Guy (Travis Fimmel). But Maggie falls under the spell of lecturer and unhappily married writer John (Ethan Hawke).

THE NEON DEMON (18)



Gruesomely gripping – 7/10

In a film featuring necrophilia and cannibalism, beautiful wannabe Jesse (Elle Fanning) hopes to break into modelling. As Jesse clambers up the career ladder, treading on anyone who stands in her way, she clashes with motel manager Hank (Keanu Reeves). When good friend Dean (Karl Glusman) tries to warn Jesse, she ignores his sage words.

GHOSTBUSTERS (12A)

Ghoulishly good – 7/10

If there's something strange in your neighbourhood, who ya gonna call? Filmmaker Paul Feig. The director of Bridesmaid, The Heat and Spy applies a neat gender reversal to this remake of the cult 1984 hit about a quartet of parapsychologists, who make a living capturing spectres and spooks in New York City. Kristen Wiig, Melissa McCarthy,Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones star.

AB FAB: THE MOVIE (15)

Absolutely average – 6/10

Life is tough for PR doyenne Edina Monsoon (Jennifer Saunders), her client list has thinned to Lulu and Emma Bunton. Edina's lucrative book deal for her memoir collapses. A hare-brained scheme goes tragically awry and the fashion world points the finger of blame for the demise of Kate Moss at Edina and Patsy (Joanna Lumley). So they flee to Cote d'Azur to snag wealthy husbands.

Tarzan swings on in

Review by Damon Smith

IT'S been almost 100 years since Edgar Rice Burroughs' muscular protector of the jungle swung into action on the big screen in the swaggering form of silent movie actor Elmo Lincoln.

Written by Adam Cozad and Craig Brewer, The Legend Of Tarzan is an entertaining and rumbustious romp that focuses on the love story between the orphaned hero and his plucky sweetheart against a backdrop of late-19th century treachery.

Director David Yates, who worked his magic at the helm of the final four films in the Harry Potter saga, orchestrates vine-swinging action sequences with aplomb, festooned with a menagerie of computer-generated animals that look incredibly realistic in close-up.

Digital might beats its chest in every lush frame, including a bone-crunching fight between Tarzan and one of his ape brethren and a terrifying stampede.

However, Yates is careful to stoke the smouldering on-screen embers between an impressively bare-chested Alexander Skarsgard and the luminous Margot Robbie so we root for the lovers when the odds are stacked heavily against them.

It has been many years since Tarzan (Skarsgard) left behind the jungles of Africa to settle into gentrified life as John Clayton III, Lord Greystoke, with his beloved wife, Jane (Robbie).

The lush paradise of the Congo is a sweet, distant memory until the British Prime Minister (Jim Broadbent) passes on an invitation from King Leopold II of Belgium to visit the Congo as a trade emissary of Parliament.

John initially refuses, but gun-slinging American envoy George Washington Williams (Samuel L Jackson) persuades the Greystoke heir to go in order to investigate rumours Leopold has enslaved local tribes to build his railroad.

John, Jane and George depart for the Congo, unaware they are pawns in a deadly game masterminded by Machiavellian Belgian envoy, Captain Leon Rom (Christoph Waltz), who has agreed to deliver Tarzan to Chief Mbonga (Djimon Hounsou) in exchange for the legendary diamonds of Opar.

A stand-off ensues and Jane is captured as tantalising bait. "He's Tarzan, you're Jane. He'll come for you," smirks Rom.

Faced with the prospect of losing his soulmate, John gathers his animal friends and unleashes the primal warrior of the past. Shot at Warner Bros. Studios near Watford and on location around the UK, The Legend Of Tarzan captures the bare necessities of Burroughs' source text.

Skarsgard and Robbie are an attractive pairing, the latter imbuing her heroine with steeliness and resolve.

Two-time Oscar winner Waltz has portrayed too many sadistic schemers in recent years for his turn as the pantomime villain here to send shivers down the spine.

Bare-chested Alexander Skarsgard shines as the hero in The Legend of Tarzan, at cinemas now

Book reviews

RARE OBJECTS

By Kathleen Tessaro
Published by Harper Paperback

Mae Fanning is a headstrong, clever girl from the wrong side of town – in her case Boston. She longs to leave but when she does she finds life in New York isn't all that hot during the Great Depression.

Forced to return home, Mae manages to get a fresh start by conning her way into a job in a tiny but exclusive Boston antique shop. All goes well until rich socialite Diana van der Laar re-enters her life and Mae is unable to keep away from her glamorous but somewhat dangerous way of life.

Like some of the rare and expensive objects in the shop in which she works, life in the fast lane for Mae isn't always what it seems.

By Deborah Knox

THE PERSON CONTROLLER

By David Baddiel
Published by Harper Collins Children's Books

Well written and funny, the story tells of geeky non-identical twins, Fred and Ellie, who love video games but who aren't over-popular at school – Ellie being brilliant and Fred not much good at anything.

One day they meet the Mystery Man who gives them a new game controller but it doesn't work with their own video games. Once they find out what they can achieve with it, Fred and Ellie use their new controller to wreak revenge on the bullies at school. They soon discover that what you wish for is rarely what you really need.

Having thought it was the answer to their wildest dreams, they soon discover that the controller is not what it seems.

By Leo Williams

THIRST

By Benjamin Warner
Published by Bloomsbury

Fans of post-Apocalyptic fiction will welcome Benjamin Warner's debut novel. It's a disturbing, enigmatic book, all the more troubling for its humdrum setting.

The nightmare scenario Warner conjures up is of a sudden and total lack of water. Inexplicably, rivers and reservoirs have combusted, leaving only beds of ash and charred foliage.

We don't know how far this disaster extends, only that food and drink is rapidly running out in the sprawling suburb where unhappy young couple Eddie and Laura live. The situation becomes increasingly desperate as the temperature soars and the inhabitants wait passively for help that never comes.

By Jackie Kingsley

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Bryn Terfel and Joseph Calleja sang together on the Eisteddfod stage

Unicef ambassador Martin Bell with president Terry Waite

Eisteddfod prize pot set to hit right note

A PRIZE pot of £10,000 will be on offer as Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod launches its search for the world's best young singers.

The winner of the Llangollen International Young Singer competition in 2017 will win £5,000 thanks to a sponsorship deal with the Pendine Park organisation while the runner-up will be awarded £2,500 from the Bryn Terfel Foundation and third place will receive £1,500.

The aim is to develop the existing Voice of the Future contest to attract talented young singers from right across the world and make it a truly international competition

Festival musical director Eilir Owen Griffiths said increasing the annual prize pot from 2017 onwards will catapult the competition into a whole new league.

He said: "This is a truly remarkable gesture by Pendine Park and the Bryn Terfel Foundation. The timing is especially appropriate as we will be celebrating our 70th anniversary in 2017 and looking forward to an even brighter future."

Opera star Bryn Terfel said: "Competing at Llangollen played an important role in my development as a young singer and I am always pleased to have the opportunity to return to perform here.

"This year is extra special for me because I am excited about the potential of the Llangollen International Young Singer competition which I believe can be of real global significance.

"I am passionate about nurturing the talent of young singers through my foundation and, with the extra prize money and the prestige that brings, the competition will be able to attract the very best of the world's young singing talent."

The Llangollen International Young Singer competition will be open to young soloists under the age of 28 and the prize money is intended to help them advance their professional career. The prize also includes the chance to perform at future festival concerts.

During the two-day competition, singers will be required to deliver a contrasting programme of up to eight minutes of music, including oratorio, opera, lieder and song, performed in its original language.

In the final competitors will have to present a programme of music lasting up to 10 minutes.

This year's Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, which ended on Sunday, is well on course to break even financially, organisers have said.

Three near sell-out evening concerts sent ticket sales soaring significantly and higher visitor attendances than in 2015 have added to the bright financial outlook.

Dr Rhys Davies, who has just completed his first successful year as eisteddfod chairman, said: "In contrast to recent years when the picture hasn't looked too good financially, we know we're definitely on course to break even this time.

"What's helped most are three concerts which enjoyed almost full houses – Tuesday's Carmen starring opera headliners Kate Aldrich and Noah Stewart, Thursday's featuring Bryn Terfel and Joseph Calleja, and the Sunday show with Jools Holland.

"Everyone in the team is also reporting that visitor footfall is up on last year, which helps put us in a very healthy financial position."

Meanwhile, British Unicef ambassador and former TV war correspondent Martin Bell has described Llangollen Eisteddfod – that was created to promote world peace – as an "inspiration".

Mr Bell was the day president at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod on Thursday.

He is a friend of former hostage Terry Waite, the festival's long serving president, who survived 1,763 days in captivity in a dank Beirut dungeon.

SPECIAL REPORT

By Sue Austin

Kate Aldrich led an all-star cast in a concert adaptation of the opera Carmen

Contribution to peace is recognised through award

Eve Conway, Rhys Davies and Molly Youd

LLANGOLLEN International Musical Eisteddfod has been honoured for its contribution to world peace.

The festival was presented with a Rotary International Peace Award by the organisation's 1180 District during a ceremony on the pavilion stage.

The festival was founded in 1947 in the aftermath of World War Two to bring peace and harmony to a world riven by conflict.

Molly Youd was recently appointed governor of the huge 1180 Rotary district, which covers an area stretching from Southport in the north to Mid Wales in the south and from Angelsey in the west to Crewe and Nantwich in the east, and is the first woman to hold the position.

She said: "I love the Eisteddfod and for the past 15 years have been in charge of the Rotary tent on the festival field.

"I came up with the idea of the peace prize because we share the same ideals of peace and international understanding.

Appropriate

"As this year has seen the 70th Eisteddfod we thought it was most appropriate to make the award to the festival, which has done so much in the cause of peace over all those years."

The award was officially handed over by Eve Conway, president of Rotary International Great Britain and Ireland, to Eisteddfod chairman Dr Rhys Davies and President Terry Waite during the festival's Friday evening concert Heart of Llangollen, which featured a Caribbean carnival extravaganza, dance championships and the International Young Musician competition.

Molly said: "Apart from being in charge of the Rotary stand I've also had the honour of being an official Llangollen Ambassador for the past six years, and I thought about the award a while ago."

Dr Davies said: "Rotary International is a truly wonderful organisation and the partnership between the Eisteddfod and Rotary is the perfect match because we have in common the work we do to promote world peace and understanding."

The Eisteddfod boss added: "I felt proud and very privileged to accept the award on behalf of the Eisteddfod and I'm sure our partnership will go from strength to the strength in future years."

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DAYS: 2 OR 3 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES

Pointless Celebrities
6pm
Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman host a reality TV-themed edition of the general knowledge quiz, challenging four teams of famous faces to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public.

Flog It!
4.45pm
Anita Manning and Will Axon head to Wells Cathedral in Somerset to uncover some hidden treasures to be sold at auction. Items include a pair of paintings by an amateur artist and a collection of shot and powder flasks. Plus, Paul Martin takes a journey around the historic centre of the city.

Catchphrase
7pm
Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to 'see it and say it' as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000.

Gogglesprogs
6pm
Young TV viewers watch a range of programmes, from entertainment shows to documentaries and classic films, as well as up-to-the-minute news reports. In this instalment, the youngsters offer their honest and hilarious views on Wallace and Gromit, The Getaway Car and 24 Hours in A&E.

Bellator Fight Night: Direct from London
10pm
Paul Daley v Douglas Lima. Coverage from the O2 Arena in London, where the Welterweight clash is the scheduled main event for Bellator 158. Plus, bouts from the undercard, which includes Matt Mitrione v Oli Thompson in the heavyweight division.

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast.**
10.00 **Saturday Kitchen Live.** Chef Daniel Galmiche and Great British Bake Off winner Nadiya Hussain step into the kitchen as Glynn Purnell serves as guest host. Includes wine recommendations by Susie Barrie.
11.30 **Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites.** The veteran cook looks towards the allotment for inspiration. Recipes include ginger orange poussin with freshly dug new potatoes, a classic chutney, and a strawberry crowd-pleaser. (R)
12.00 **BBC News;** Weather.
12.15 **Bargain Hunt.** The show heads to Dorking in Surrey, where two mother-and-daughter teams scour the high street for bargains, and Tim Wonnacott looks at a carving that poses a few questions. (R)
1.00 **Athletics: Diamond League Highlights.** The Herculis. Gabby Logan presents action from the ninth Diamond League meeting of the season, which took place at Stade Louis II in Monaco.
2.15 **Jessica Ennis-Hill – A Coach's Story.** Behind the scenes of the heptathlete's bid to defend her Olympic title.
2.45 **Live Davis Cup Tennis.** Serbia v Great Britain. Coverage of the second day of the World Group quarter-final contest, featuring the doubles rubber at Tasmajdan Stadium in Belgrade. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
5.45 **BBC News.**
5.55 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
6.00 **Pointless Celebrities.** Ruth Badger, Solomon Akhtar, Carl Fogarty, Jimmy Bullard, Craig Phillips, Nikki Grahame, Jamie Laing and Alex Mytton compete in a reality TV-themed edition. (R)
6.50 **The Getaway Car.** Five more duos hit the track in South Africa this week, including a retired husband-and-wife from Somerset, a pair of chatty sisters from Ulster and all-singing friends from Kent.
7.40 **The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws. Last in the series.
8.30 **The Musketeers.** The heroes' pursuit of Grimaud leads them to a battle-scarred village inhabited solely by women, whom they defend against war deserters – discovering a dark secret in the process.
9.25 **Casualty.** Rita receives a frosty reception from her colleagues, while Jez forgets to fill the ambulance with petrol. Robyn is gutted after her break-up with Glen.
10.15 **BBC News;** Weather; **National Lottery Update.**
10.35 FILM: **Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006).** Captain Jack Sparrow battles to save his soul from the legendary Davy Jones and his fearsome sea monster. Swashbuckling adventure, starring Johnny Depp.
12.55 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
1.00 **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.05 **The Women's Football Show.** A look back at the latest action from the FA WSL. (R)
6.35 FILM: **Once Upon a Honeymoon (1942).** An American burlesque performer marries a German baron, and a reporter falls for her while trying to prove her husband is a Nazi agent. Comedy, with Cary Grant and Ginger Rogers.
8.25 FILM: **Ivanhoe (1952).** A knight battles to rescue Richard the Lionheart from imprisonment and stop scheming Prince John taking the throne. Medieval adventure, with Robert Taylor and Elizabeth Taylor.
10.10 **Homes Under the Hammer.** Properties in Cornwall, London and the West Midlands. (R)
11.10 **Natural World – Snow Monkeys.** The lives of Japan's snow monkeys. (R)
12.00 **The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure.** Si King and Dave Myers explore Poland as they circumnavigate the Baltic Sea. (R)
1.00 FILM: **The Caine Mutiny (1954).** US Navy officers rebel against their erratic captain during a violent storm at sea, resulting in a court martial. Second World War drama, with Humphrey Bogart and Jose Ferrer.
3.00 **Coast.** The history of Britain's harbours. (R)
4.00 **Escape to the Country.** Aled Jones helps a couple find a home in the Chilterns. (R)
4.45 **Flog It!** From Wells, Somerset. (R)
5.45 **Live Davis Cup Tennis.** Serbia v Great Britain. Further coverage of the second day of the World Group quarter-final contest, featuring the doubles rubber at Tasmajdan Stadium in Belgrade. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
7.00 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don demonstrates that it is not too late to starting growing vegetables and explains which types can be sown now. Plus, Rachel de Thame visits Sir Cameron Mackintosh's garden. (R)
7.30 **Dad's Army.** The vicar and the verger enlist in the Home Guard, but their over-enthusiastic man-management brings the wrath of Warden Hodges down upon the platoon. (R)
8.00 **Golf: The Open Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the third day of the prestigious event, which takes place at Royal Troon Golf Club in Ayrshire.
10.00 **The Rack Pack.** Comedy drama based on the glory days of professional snooker in the 1980s and the rivalry between Alex "Hurricane" Higgins and Steve Davis. Luke Treadaway and Will Merrick star.
11.30 FILM: **Youth in Revolt (2009).** An awkward 16-year-old meets the girl of his dreams on holiday and embarks on a series of elaborate misadventures to be with her. Comedy, starring Michael Cera and Portia Doubleday.
12.55 FILM: **Repo Chick (2009).** Comedy sequel, starring Jaclyn Jonet.
2.20 **This Is BBC2.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV:** The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan **6.30** Dino Dan **6.45** Dino Dan **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story **7.00** Sooty **7.15** Super 4 **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes
8.25 **ITV News.**
8.30 **Weekend.** A live studio performance by Corinne Bailey Rae.
9.25 **Murder, She Wrote.** Jessica's friend is accused of murder. (R)
10.20 **Murder, She Wrote.** Jessica hunts for a missing manuscript, but the death of its author turns her quest into a murder investigation. Jerry Orbach guest stars. (R)
11.20 **Who's Doing the Dishes?** Designer Linda Barker throws a dinner party for four strangers who have to guess the identity of their mystery celebrity host. Hosted by Brian McFadden. (R)
12.20 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
12.25 **The Wine Show.** Actors Matthew Goode and Matthew Rhys present a guide to wine from an Italian villa, and challenge chefs to create the perfect meal to accompany each bottle.
1.30 **Big Box Little Box.** A robotic vacuum cleaner and a travel pillow. (R)
2.00 **Doc Martin.** Al discovers a disturbing family secret. (R)
3.00 **The Chase.** Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
4.00 **Midsomer Murders.** A masterpiece by a landscape artist is auctioned for £400,000 after a fierce bidding war – and hours later, its former owner is tortured and killed. David Bamber guest stars. (R)
6.00 **ITV News Central;** Weather.
6.15 **ITV News and Weather.**
6.30 **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates more viewer-submitted comical mishaps, including an unusual take on Ninja Warrior UK and a fine example of why bicycle selfies are a bad idea. (R)
7.00 **Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.
7.45 FILM: **The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013).** Premiere. The party of dwarves and their hobbit ally face the dragon that stole their homeland. Part two of the fantasy adventure trilogy, starring Martin Freeman and Ian McKellen.
10.45 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
11.05 FILM: **Carry On Up the Jungle (1970).** A Victorian explorer recalls his expedition to tropical Africa in search of a rare bird, where he discovered an all-female tribe. Comedy, starring Sid James and Frankie Howerd.
12.45 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 **Murder, She Wrote.** Sleuthing scribe Jessica Fletcher investigates the mysterious death of a corrupt newspaper tycoon. (R)
3.50 **ITV Nightscreen.**

Channel 4

6.10 **The King of Queens.** Doug and Carrie make new friends. (R)
6.35 **Motor Sport: British GT.** Round six from Spa-Francorchamps.
7.00 **Gillette World Sport.** Global sports action.
7.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert tells Amy about Joanne. (R)
7.55 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray accidentally kills Ally's hamster. (R)
8.25 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert is promoted to lieutenant. (R)
8.55 **Dare to Believe: Natasha Baker.** A profile of the British para-equestrian star. (R)
9.00 **The Morning Line.** Racing preview from Newbury.
10.00 **Car SOS.** The team steps in and restores a 1967 Lancia Flavia coupe. (R)
11.00 **The Superhumans Show.** Guests include Dan Greaves and Richard Madeley.
11.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Leonard's car is stolen. (R)
12.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** Penny buys Leonard and Sheldon some Star Trek memorabilia. (R)
12.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Howard tries to win back Bernadette. (R)
12.55 **Come Dine with Me.** Dinner party contest from north-west Wales. (R)
2.00 **Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Newbury, Newmarket and Market Rasen.
4.30 **A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.** Properties in the La Marina Alta region of Spain's Costa Blanca.
5.30 **Channel 4 News.**
5.55 **Dare to Believe: Ali Jawad.** Profiles of British Paralympians heading to Rio. (R)
6.00 **Gogglesprogs.** Young TV viewers offer their honest, inimitable and ultimately hilarious take on recent television programmes including Wallace and Gromit, The Getaway Car and 24 Hours in A&E. (R)
7.00 FILM: **Star Trek (2009).** The first mission of the starship Enterprise leads the crew into a battle with a vengeful Romulan commander from the future. Sci-fi adventure, with Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto.
9.30 FILM: **Shutter Island (2010).** A US marshal searching for an escaped patient at a hospital for the criminally insane uncovers sinister secrets. Mystery thriller, with Leonardo DiCaprio and Mark Ruffalo.
12.10 **Dare to Believe: Jordanne Whiley.** A profile of the British wheelchair tennis player. (R)
12.15 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** Part one of two. The Burger Kitchen in Los Angeles. (R)
1.05 FILM: **Something in the Air (2012).** A student tries to reconcile his political beliefs and his artistic ambitions in the aftermath of the 1968 Paris riots. Drama, starring Clement Metayer.
3.05 **Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. Ste prepares for his first working day at The Bean and is determined to stay clean, until Cameron tries to lead him back into temptation. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 **Milkshake!:** Bob the Builder **6.10** Wanda and the Alien **6.20** Pets **6.25** Noddy in Toyland **6.40** Paw Patrol **6.55** Little Princess **7.05** Pip Ahoy! **7.20** Blaze and the Monster Machines **7.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.05** Shimmer and Shine
8.25 **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** The Turtles get whisked through time by apprentice Time Master Renet. (R)
9.00 **The Saturday Show Live.** With guests Richard Madeley, Alexandra Burke and Audley Harrison.
11.10 **Police Interceptors: The Fatal Four.** Kev Salter shows presenter Rick Edwards how to spot a drunk driver. (R)
12.10 **Police Interceptors.** Kev pepper-sprays a suspect resisting arrest. (R)
1.10 **Police Interceptors.** Paul Faulkner has a close shave with a stolen vehicle. (R)
2.10 **World's Strongest Man.** Action from the Sweden Grand Prix. (R)
3.10 **World's Strongest Man.** Britain's Strongest Man. (R)
4.05 **World's Strongest Man.** The Viking Challenge. (R)
5.05 **World's Strongest Man.** The World Deadlift Championships. (R)
6.05 **World's Strongest Man.** Europe's Strongest Man. Action from the contest, which took place at Headingley, where home favourite Eddie Hall and 2014 champion Hafthor Bjornsson were among those taking part. (R)
7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v Pakistan. Mark Nicholas presents action from the third day of the First Test in the four-match series, which took place at Lord's.
8.00 **NCIS.** Part one of two. Ned Dorneget, who is now working with NCIS cyber operations, helps the investigators discover a conspiracy related to the death of a Naval intelligence ensign.
8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
9.00 **Big Brother.** Catching up with the Big Brother contestants as they recover from the week-long Annihilation theme and react to Friday night's "eviction massacre".
10.00 **Bellator Fight Night: Direct from London.** Paul Daley v Douglas Lima. Coverage from the O2 Arena in London, where the Welterweight clash is the scheduled main event for Bellator 158.
12.00 **SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10 **Big Brother.** Catching up with the Big Brother contestants as they recover from the week-long Annihilation theme and react to Friday night's "eviction massacre". (R)
4.00 **Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Clip show featuring entertaining pups, including Oakley, the miniature Australian sheepdog puppy whose version of Frozen song "Let It Go" has entertained millions of viewers. (R)
4.50 **Divine Designs.** Two notable Victorian architects. (R)
5.15 **House Doctor.** A bland property near Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. (R)
5.40 **Angels of Jarm.** Angel Mick helps at a playgroup picnic. (R)

The Secret Agent

9pm

Adaptation of Joseph Conrad's novel, starring Toby Jones as a shopkeeper in Victorian London who is secretly a spy monitoring anarchist groups for the Russian government, a double life is wife does not suspect. He is ordered by his superiors to arrange a bombing that will be blamed on the Anarchists.

A Long Way Down

10pm

Premiere. A stressed mum, a disgraced TV presenter, an American musician and a spurned teenager form a bond on New Year's Eve when they meet on the roof of a notorious London suicide spot and vow to stay alive until Valentine's Day. Comedy drama, starring Pierce Brosnan.

It'll Be Alright on the Night

8pm

Griff Rhys Jones presents another selection of outtakes from popular TV series, featuring stars including Mary Berry, Paul O'Grady and Ant & Dec, as well as Ian McKellen and Derek Jacobi experiencing some memorable mishaps on the set of Vicious.

The Lion King

6.15pm

A lion prince blames himself for his father's death and flees into the wilderness, leaving his wicked uncle to take over. As the cub grows to adulthood, he receives a vision of the dead king, who inspires him to reclaim his rightful throne. Animated musical, with the voice of Matthew Broderick.

Cricket on 5

7pm

England v Pakistan. Mark Nicholas presents all the action from the fourth day of the First Test in the four-match series, which took place at Lord's. Commentary is provided by Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan and Simon Hughes.

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast.**
9.00 **The Andrew Marr Show.**
10.00 **Sunday Morning Live.** Naga Munchetty presents topical debate covering religious, moral and ethical issues, with guest panellists and contributions from viewers.
11.00 **Sunday Politics West Midlands.**
12.15 **Bargain Hunt.** In Devon, Tim Wonnacott presides as two teams search for items to be sold at auction, with expertise coming in the form of Kate Bliss and David Harper. (R)
1.00 **BBC News;** Weather.
1.15 **Escape to the Country.** Denise Nurse helps a family search for a home in the Surrey countryside on a budget of £400,000, and visits the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley. (R)
1.45 **Live Davis Cup Tennis.** Serbia v Great Britain. Coverage of the third and final day of the World Group quarter-final contest, featuring the concluding singles rubber at Tasmajdan Stadium in Belgrade.
5.15 **Songs of Praise.** Pam Rhodes reports on how Christians are responding to the EU referendum result. Plus, hymns and songs from around the UK.
5.50 **Pointless Celebrities.** Ed Baines, Paul Rankin, Tony Singh, Cyrus Todiwala, Jean-Christophe Novelli, Jo Pratt, Richard Burr and Frances Quinn compete in a "food and drink" themed edition of the quiz. (R)
6.35 **BBC News.**
6.50 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
7.00 **Countryfile.** An episode exploring meadows, in which Matt Baker learns how to wield a scythe and Naomi Wilkinson visits an RSPB site set up to provide a habitat for birds and insects.
8.00 **Fake or Fortune?** New series. Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould investigate a portrait of a man wearing a black cravat painted in 1939, which the owner believes is an early work of Lucian Freud, from his time at the Central School of Art – even though Freud himself denied painting it. The team tries to uncover who the mysterious man in the painting was, whether it really was painted by Freud, and if so, why did he claim that it was not his work. The investigation digs up a complex history of feuds, rivalry and intrigue.
9.00 **The Secret Agent.** New series. Adaptation of Joseph Conrad's novel, starring Toby Jones as a shopkeeper in Victorian London who is secretly a spy monitoring anarchists for the Russian government.
10.00 **BBC News.**
10.20 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
10.30 **Olympic Imagine Special: One Night In 2012.** Alan Yentob looks back at the 2012 Olympics opening ceremony, with Danny Boyle and the creative team explaining the challenges that went into creating 'The Greatest Show on Earth'.
12.10 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
12.15 **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.30 **Great British Garden Revival.** Lilies and woodland plants. (R)
7.30 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don explains which vegetables can be sown now. (R)
8.00 **The Beechgrove Garden.** A special edition from the ancient market town of Nairn.
8.30 **Countryfile.** Matt Baker helps out with the strawberry harvest in Kent. (R)
9.30 **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Highlights of the series. (R)
11.00 **Tom Kerridge's Best Ever Dishes.** The chef demonstrates how to liven up lunches. Last in the series. (R)
11.30 **A Cook Abroad: Rick Stein's Australia.** The chef goes on a culinary tour Down Under. (R)
12.30 **Triathlon.** The seventh round of the ITU World Triathlon Series in Hamburg.
1.45 **FILM: Kidnapped (1960).** Historical adventure, starring Peter Finch.
3.15 **Kangaroo Dundee and Other Animals – Part 1: Natural World.** Part one of two. A man who rescues and raises orphaned kangaroos in the outback. (R)
4.15 **Kangaroo Dundee and Other Animals – Part 2: Natural World.** Part two of two. The new animals are proving quite a handful. (R)
5.15 **Flog It!** From Crathes Castle in Aberdeenshire. (R)
6.00 **Attenborough's Life That Glows.** David Attenborough explores the world of bioluminescence, the often spectacular natural light produced by creatures including glow-worms, fireflies and plankton. (R)
7.00 **Trust Me, I'm a Doctor – Summer Special.** Skin surgeon Gabriel Weston tests the effectiveness of protective sun creams and Michael Mosley investigates ways to get the benefits of exercise without doing any at all. (R)
8.00 **Golf: The Open Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents action from the fourth and final day of the prestigious event, which took place at Royal Troon Golf Club in Ayrshire.
10.00 **FILM: A Long Way Down (2014).** Premiere. Four desperate strangers form a bond when they meet on the roof of a notorious London suicide spot on New Year's Eve. Comedy drama, with Pierce Brosnan and Toni Collette.
11.30 **Mock the Week.** Loyiso Gola, Milton Jones, Miles Jupp, Ellie Taylor and Josh Widdicombe join host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy show. (R)
12.00 **FILM: In a Better World (2010).** A doctor working in an African refugee camp and his son back home in Denmark each face a crisis of conscience. Drama, starring Mikael Persbrandt and Markus Rygaard.
1.55 **Sign Zone: Countryfile.** Matt Baker helps out with the strawberry harvest in Kent, while Naomi Wilkinson visits Dover to investigate the history of people attempting to swim the English Channel. (R)
2.50 **Sign Zone: Holby City.** Mo struggles with a big choice regarding her future. (R)
3.50 **This Is BBC2.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV:** The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan **6.30** Dino Dan **6.45** Dino Dan **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story **7.00** Sooty **7.15** Super 4 **7.30** Oddbods **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go **8.00** Teen Titans Go!
8.25 **ITV News.**
8.30 **Weekend.** Actress and comedian Kerry Godliman discusses her comedy tour.
9.25 **Murder, She Wrote.** Jessica takes a teaching position in New York. (R)
10.20 **Murder, She Wrote.** A killer stalks a college campus. (R)
11.20 **Judge Rinder.** Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
12.20 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
12.25 **Rebound.** Quiz, hosted by Sean Fletcher. (R)
1.25 **Long Lost Family.** A woman is desperate to reconnect with her roots in Riobamba, Ecuador. (R)
2.25 **Love Your Garden.** The team visit Canterbury to help a Gurkha. (R)
3.30 **Midsomer Murders.** A woman is strangled in Midsomer Worthy. (R)
5.30 **Masterpiece with Alan Titchmarsh.** From Kentwell Hall in Suffolk. (R)
6.30 **ITV News Central;** Weather.
6.45 **ITV News and Weather.**
7.00 **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Former Dancing on Ice judge Karen Barber, TV presenter Dick Strawbridge, Coronation Street's Catherine Tyldesley and comedian Russell Kane take on a trivia expert. (R)
8.00 **It'll Be Alright on the Night.** Griff Rhys Jones presents a selection of outtakes featuring Mary Berry, Paul O'Grady and Ant & Dec, as well as some memorable mishaps from the set of Vicious. (R)
9.00 **FILM: Casino Royale (2006).** James Bond pursues an international criminal responsible for financing terrorist organisations across the world. Spy thriller, starring Daniel Craig, Eva Green and Mads Mikkelsen.
10.30 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
10.45 **FILM: Casino Royale (2006).** Concluded.
12.05 **River Monsters.** Part one of two. Jeremy Wade investigates the Loch Ness Monster. (R)
12.30 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 **Motorsport UK.** Highlights from Oulton Park, featuring action from the Renault Clio Cup and Ginetta Juniors Championship. Commentary by Richard John Neil.
3.50 **British Superbike Championship Highlights.** Action from the fifth round of the season at Snetterton, where the riders competed in the ninth and 10th of the year's scheduled races.
4.45 **ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.
5.05 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

Channel 4

6.00 **Shipping Wars.** A shipment is heavier than expected. (R)
6.25 **Shipping Wars.** Marc has to transport two tanks. (R)
6.45 **The King of Queens.** Carrie throws a birthday party. (R)
7.10 **The King of Queens.** Doug and Deacon go gambling. (R)
7.35 **The King of Queens.** Doug reveals his benevolent side. (R)
8.00 **Frasier.** First-ever episode of the comedy, starring Kelsey Grammer. (R)
8.30 **Frasier.** The shrink resents his lack of privacy. (R)
9.00 **Frasier.** The Crane boys dine with Martin. (R)
9.30 **Sunday Brunch.** With James Argent, Bryan Adams and Blossoms.
12.30 **Dare to Believe: Jordanne Whiley.** A profile of the British wheelchair tennis player. (R)
12.35 **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** Transforming a double-decker coach into a Japanese-style pod hotel. (R)
1.35 **FILM: Hairspray (2007).** Musical comedy, starring Nikki Blonsky and John Travolta.
3.50 **Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer are in south-west London. (R)
4.50 **A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** Jasmine Harman helps two teachers find a home in Spain.
5.50 **Dare to Believe: Jordanne Whiley.** A profile of the British wheelchair tennis player. (R)
5.55 **Channel 4 News.**
6.15 **FILM: The Lion King (1994).** A lion cub prince flees after his father is murdered, but returns as an adult to reclaim his throne. Disney animated musical, with the voices of Matthew Broderick and Jeremy Irons.
8.00 **FILM: Thor (2011).** Premiere. The Norse god of thunder is banished to present-day Earth, which he must defend from his evil brother. Fantasy adventure, starring Chris Hemsworth and Natalie Portman. Edited for violence.
10.15 **FILM: Dredd (2012).** A law enforcer in a post-apocalyptic city must fight his way out of a tower block dominated by a ruthless crime lord. Sci-fi thriller, starring Karl Urban and Lena Headey.
12.05 **Dare to Believe: Jack Rutter.** (R)
12.10 **Rich Brother, Poor Brother: Cutting Edge.** Documentary exploring the wealth gap in Britain. (R)
1.05 **Date My Mum.** Children choose prospective partners for their mothers. (R)
2.05 **Dogs: Their Secret Lives.** The results of the online survey launched in the series. (R)
3.00 **Posh Pawn.** James heads to Lanzarote to tackle the sale of a yellow submarine. (R)
3.55 **French Collection.** Three collectors visit a trade market in Paris with 800 euros to spend. (R)
4.50 **Dare to Believe: Ali Jawad.** (R)
4.55 **Fifteen to One.** General knowledge quiz. (R)
5.50 **Draw It!** (R)

Channel 5

6.00 **Milkshake!:** Peppa Pig **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus **6.15** Angelina Ballerina: The Next Steps **6.30** Bob the Builder **6.40** Wanda and the Alien **6.50** Zack and Quack **7.05** Pets **7.10** Noddy in Toyland **7.20** Paw Patrol **7.35** Little Princess **7.45** Pip Ahoy! **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.45** Shimmer and Shine **9.10** Jelly Jamm **9.30** LazyTown
9.55 **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** The Turtles travel back in time. (R)
10.30 **Now That's Funny!** Babies learn about the world the hard way. (R)
11.25 **Cats Make You laugh Out Loud 3.** Compilation of internet videos featuring cats doing bizarre things. (R)
12.25 **FILM: Innerspace (1987).** Sci-fi comedy, starring Dennis Quaid.
2.40 **FILM: Three Men and a Baby (1987).** Comedy, starring Tom Selleck, Ted Danson and Steve Guttenberg.
4.35 **FILM: Willow (1988).** Fantasy adventure, starring Warwick Davis.
7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v Pakistan. Mark Nicholas presents action from the fourth day of the First Test in the four-match series, which took place at Lord's.
8.00 **Now That's Funny!** Two brothers trick their sister into thinking they are under attack from zombies, and a bad-tempered father tries to solve a riddle.
8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
9.00 **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary-room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
10.00 **20 Moments that Rocked the 80s.** Cherie Lunghi presents a countdown of memorable moments, including royal weddings, political scandals, sporting triumphs and the rise to fame of iconic entertainers. (R)
11.30 **The 80s: The Best of Bad TV.** A look back at memorable TV highlights from the 1980s, focusing on the best and worst that the decade had to offer, including the infamous 1989 Brit Awards. (R)
12.50 **Lip Sync Battle.** Hip hop duo Salt N Pepa battle it out. (R)
1.15 **SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10 **GPs: Behind Closed Doors.** Two third-year medical students gain a valuable hands-on experience of working in a GP's surgery, including leading a consultation and the finer points of administering injections. (R)
4.00 **Now That's Funny!** A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring people who crash weddings, sporting fails and flops, and science experiments. (R)
4.50 **Wildlife SOS.** The work of an animal sanctuary. (R)
5.15 **Wildlife SOS.** The work of an animal sanctuary. (R)
5.40 **Angels of Jarm.** Angel Ellie arrives on Jam. (R)
5.50 **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

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deaths

BRANNICK

Hazel Marion

Our Family is saddened to inform you of our recent loss of Hazel, who passed away on Wednesday, June 22, 2016, aged 81 years.

Loving Wife to Harry, much loved Mother to Antony, Christopher and Hilary, Mother-in-law to Aarti, Cecelia and Greg and dearly loved Grandmother to Anjali, Michaela, Lakshmi, Ben, Phillip, George and Ivory.

All Family and Friends are welcome to attend the Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Oswestry, on Monday, July 18, at 2pm, which will be followed by a private Cremation.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to The Alzheimer's Society.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

HUNT

Judith Lorna

(Judy)

Of St. George's Court. Beloved Wife of the late Robert and the loving Mum of Jenny, along with Debbie, Bob and Tim, passed away in hospital.

The Funeral Service will be held in St George's Church, Frankwell on Monday, July 18, at 1.30pm, followed by Committal at Emstrey.

Family flowers only please, however there will be a retiring collection at Church.

All inquiries please to

AUBREY KIRKHAM
Funeral Directors,
Frankwell Island,
Shrewsbury.
01743 368999

ROBINSON

Samuel

(Sam)

Passed away peacefully on July 3, 2016, aged 95 years.

Beloved Husband of the late Theresa, much loved Dad of Mike and Paul, Father-in-law of Catherine and Chris, loving Grandad of Rebecca, Samuel, Charlotte and Andy and Great-Grandad of Tyler.

Funeral Service at Our Lady and St Oswald's Roman Catholic Church, Oswestry on Wednesday, July 20, at 2.30pm, followed by Interment at Oswestry Cemetery.
Family flowers only.
Donations if desired to Dementia UK.
All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

TIBBOTT

Margaret

Passed away peacefully in her sleep at Old Vicarage Nursing Home, Gobowen on June 7, 2016, aged 90 years.

Much loved Wife of the late Peter Tibbott.

Funeral Service at St Aelhaiarn's Parish Church, Guilsfield on Monday, July 25 at 11am, followed by Interment at Guilsfield Cemetery.

Family flowers only.
Donations if desired to The Alzheimer's Society.

All inquiries to

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2013 13	**VW GOLF 1.6S BLUE MOTION TDi ESTATE** Black, One Owner, 43,000 Miles, £20 Road Tax	£8,499
2012 12	**VW PASSAT SE 2.0 TDi BLUE MOTION ESTATE,** Grey Metallic, 6 Speed Manual, 56,000 Miles, £30 Road Tax	£10,999
2010 60	**VW POLO 1.2 SE** 3-door, Blue, 44,000 miles, FSH	£5,999
2006 06	**VW GOLF 1.4** 5 door, Metallic Silver, Manual, 67,000 miles, FSH	£3,999

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2011 11 SKODA OCTAVIA 6 SE ESTATE Black Metallic, 28,500 miles, Reverse Parking Sensors, FSH **SOLD**

2009 09 JAGUAR XF PORTFOLIO 3.0 V6 Auto, Red Metallic with Cream Leather, Climate Control, Sat Nav, 48,000 miles, FSH **£14,999**

2010 10 BMW 318D 2.0 M-SPORT 4 Door Saloon, Blue Metallic, 17" Double Spoke Alloy Wheels, 63,000 miles, £30 Road Tax **£9,999**

2011 61 MINI CLUBMAN 2.0D S Manual. red, Black Roof, Sat Nav, 1 Owner, 37,000 miles, FSH **£11,999**

2008 08 MINI COOPER 1.6 3 door, Manual, Metallic, Blue/Black Roof, 43,000 miles, FSH **£5,999**

2013 13 AUDI A4 ALL ROAD 2.0 TDi QUATTRO ESTATE Black Metallic with Privacy Glass, 6 Speed Manual, Climate Control, Sat Nav, 62,000 miles **£16,999**

2015 15 FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC 5 Door. White, One Owner, 22,200 miles, Air Conditioning **£8,299**

2006 56 SKODA OCTAVIA 9 TDi 4x4 ESTATE Black, 6 Speed Manual, Reverse Parking Sensors **£3,999**

2015 14 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC S TDCI 5-door, Silver Metallic, One Owner, 11,800 miles, Alloy Wheels, £20 Road Tax **£11,999**

2013 13 CITROEN C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI EXCLUSIVE White, One Owner, 36,800 miles, Cruise Control, Reversing Sensors, FSH **SOLD**

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13 FORD FIESTA 1.5 TDCi Titanium Red ..... DUE IN
61 VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE 1.2 Red, lady owner ..... Only £3995
11 MAZDA 2 SPORT 1.6 Diesel, white, Alloys, Sports Trim, Air Con £5995
57 SUZUKI SWIFT SPORT 1.6, Black, low mileage £3795
09 FIAT 500 POP 1.2, White £3695
09 FIAT BRAVO 1.4 Dynamic, 5 door, Silver, Alloys ..... £4495 ..... £3995
08 FORD FIESTA ZETEC Climate, 3 door, bronze metallic ..... £3995 ..... £3495
07 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.7 Diesel, Grey Metallic ..... SOLD
07 BMW 320i SE 2.0, Blue £4995
56 (07) MERCEDES A160 CDi CLASSIC SE Diesel, Silver ..... £4795 ..... £3395
56 VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic £2695

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61 VW GOLF MATCH TDI, 5 DOOR, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, SERV HIST, 20 ROAD TAX 54K £8,195
11 FORD MONDEO EDGE TDCI EST, SILVER, FULL SERV. HIST., ONE PREV. OWNER 64K £7,495
12 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM TDCI, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY, 1.6 TDCI 220 ROAD TAX 52K £7,075
11 POLO SEL TSI 90 1.6 5 DR., SILVER, AC, ALLOY WHEELS ONE OWN, F.S.H 30 ROAD TAX 55K £7,475
62 FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 3 DOOR, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, TINTED WINDOWS ELECTRIC FOLDING MIRRORS 20 ROAD TAX 33K £6,650
12 SUZUKI SPLASH SZ4, BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 30 ROAD TAX 10K £6,250
60 VAUX. ASTRA SRI CDTI 160 BHP 5 DOOR, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, CRUISE CONTROL 80K £6,495
13 SKODA FABIA, SILVER, ONE OWNER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 27K £5,975
12 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 1.2, 5 DOOR, MET. RED, FULL SERVICE HISTORY. 30 ROAD TAX 42K £5,495
60 TOYOTA YARIS TR D-4D, BLUE, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, SERV. HIST. 20 ROAD TAX 66K £5,295
60 RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIC 1.5 DCI TOMTOM 5 DOOR, BLACK, 30 ROAD TAX 54K £4,795
60 PEUGEOT 207 S 1.4, 5 DOOR, BLACK, AIR CON, ELEC. WINDOWS, SERVICE HIST 38K £4,495
60 NISSAN NOTE N-TEC, METALLIC RED, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, CRUISE CONTROL 75K £4,295
11 VW POLO 1.2 URBAN, BRIGHT RED, ELEC. WINDOWS, REMOTE LOCKING, F.S.H. 46K £3,995
08 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 5 DR., BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., SERV. HISTORY 59K £3,650
09 PEUG 207 VERVE 1.4 5 DR., BLUE, CD, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERV. HIST. 49K £3,750
12 PEUGEOT 107 URBAN, RED, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, 20 ROAD TAX 34K £3,495
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Motoring

SUV will keep you on straight and narrow

By Graham Breeze

Peugeot's impressive 2008 just got even better with the arrival of a beefy looking GT-line version which goes on sale in July.

The 2008 has been getting rave reviews since launch back in 2013 with Peugeot's new "grip control" system and the new three cylinder 1.2litre GT-line petrol model I've just driven is another step in the right direction for the company.

Don't be fooled that the 2008 is an off-road vehicle because that certainly isn't the case. It's not badged as an all-terrain vehicle but it will take you further than most in the SUV sector thanks to Peugeot's unique electronic stability programme.

The system works to maintain the best possible traction with five operating modes chosen by the driver from a control mounted on the centre console – Standard, Snow, All-Terrain, Sand and Off with mud and snow tyres coming in the package.

The system did more than enough to impress at launch in the snow back in 2013 and I've now had the chance to put the new GT-line through its paces in the mud.

Quite simply it does all it says on the tin. Don't expect it to get you through rivers and bogs but do expect to stay in full control in most of the muddy or sandy situations you are likely to encounter.

The first thing you notice about the new GT-line is the new beefy front with the latest Peugeot design codes and new double grille treatment with the test car looking particularly dashing in bright red with a red and black interior theme.

Wheel arch extensions and scuff plates give the GT-line a robust appearance with the tailgate opening to reveal a low loading sill with plenty of room for the golf clubs or holiday luggage.

New 17'' alloys get gloss black/anthracite treatment which also replaces the standard chrome effect, including the front grille surround, fog light covers, mirror casings and roof bars. The front grille includes Black Chrome facets with red Peugeot lettering, while the rear stainless steel scuff plates are decorated like the exhaust tailpipe. The 'GT Line' badging is displayed on each front wing and on the tailgate.

Stylish

Once inside there's no mistaking Peugeot's i-cockpit design with a compact sports steering wheel that has all the adjustments required to find a comfortable seating position. The colour-coded handbrake is another stylish touch from the French company.

Everything the modern motorist needs can be found within a seven inch touchscreen control centre that's as easy to use as any I have encountered. I'm a known critic of this type of system but you have to hand it to Peugeot's design team on this occasion – everything is easy to find and even the sat nav system is straight forward.

And as with all modern-day offerings you get Peugeot's on-board connectivity system which includes the Mirror Screen feature which allows the driver to link an Apple Carplay with voice activation or MirrorLink compatible smartphone to the touch screen. Peugeot has also added Active City Brake technology which can reduce the severity of accidents and even helps avoid them altogether. Park Assist technology will automate the parking process on the top of the range models and you also get a reversing camera in the package. It's taken me a while but I'm becoming a big fan of this camera system.

There's 18 models in the 2008 range now and the three cylinder 1.2 litre PureTech 130 on test was a hugely impressive performer with Peugeot claiming best in class figures of 58.9mpg and CO2 levels of 110g/km as the company pursues more buyers from the petrol sector.

The UK range is composed of Euro 6 PureTech and BlueHDi engines, in manual and automatic. Offering power ratings of 82 to 130hp, its CO2 emissions are restricted from 96 to 114g/km. Four types of engine are 'Best-in-Class' in their segment, including the new 1.2L PureTech 130 on test.

Peugeot has sold over 40,000 versions of the 2008 in the UK since launch back in 2013 when the emphasis was focused clearly on the impressive new grip control system. Focus has now shifted to improved performance and a more rugged look and a sales target in the petrol sector.

Prices start at £13,615 and top out at £20,565 while the model on test hits the road at £19,215 – a competitive price for an SUV which should keep you on the straight and narrow in most day-to-day conditions.

But remember this is not a competitor in the 4X4 market or you'll find yourself bogged down.

A sigificant date for Arthurs

Today is one of the most significant in the long history of the Arthurs Motor Group.

For today is the day their prestigious new website 'goes live' offering their Vauxhall and Peugeot customers a 'digital experience' they haven't previously experienced from a motor dealership.

A major investment by the group will result in Arthurs Vauxhall of Oswestry and Newtown and Arthurs Peugeot of Wrexham having a combined website with many new features embracing the digital age.

Group operations manager Steve Hughes said: "Arthurs consider themselves to be market leaders in the automotive industry's digital age, offering customers the best possible online experience.

Offers

"At the same time we shall be launching the new website with some 'hot' offers for the next quarter of our respective sales programmes for Vauxhall and Peugeot.

"Even before the official launch of the new website we were seeing a significantly increased footfall.

"Over the last 30 days more than 5,000 visits have been made to our Vauxhall and Peugeot website address arthurscars.co.uk

"This represents a 38.6 per cent increase in visitors which is also 33 per cent up on the same period a year ago. At the same time, visitors to the website are staying on our pages for four minutes which is an increase of a minute.

"We are really excited at the opportunity the new website offers existing and prospective customers as we confidently look towards the future," he added.

Pictured: Group operations manager Steve Hughes announces the day the Arthurs new website goes 'live.'

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62 Reg KIA VENGA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.4 CRDi 2 5dr BLUE	£6,495	£5,495
13 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.6 Style 3dr Powershift WHITE		£7,495
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13 Reg KIA CEED DIESEL SPORTSWAGON 1.6 CRDi Level 2 Diesel Auto Bal of 7yr Warranty SILVER		£10,695
13 Reg MAZDA MAZDA6 DIESEL SALOON 2.2d SE-L 4dr SILVER		£10,695
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Important information
Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Ford EcoSport range: urban 34.9-58.9 (8.1-4.8), extra urban 53.3-65.7 (5.3-4.3), combined 44.8-64.2 (6.3-4.4). Official CO_2 emissions 149-115g/km. Ford Kuga range: urban 30.4-52.3 (9.3-5.4), extra urban 45.6-65.7 (6.2-4.3), combined 38.2-60.1 (7.4-4.7). Official CO_2 emissions 171-122g/km. New Ford Edge range: urban 43.5-44.1 (6.5-6.4), extra urban 51.4-52.3 (5.5-5.4), combined 47.9-48.7 (5.9-5.8). Official CO_2 emissions 152-149g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.
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How they stand

Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League

First Teams

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Berkswell	11	8	0	1	0	2	185
Wolverhampton	11	6	2	1	0	2	166
Kenilworth W	11	4	3	2	0	2	152
Ombersley	11	5	2	2	0	2	136
Knowle & D	11	5	1	4	0	1	136
Kidderminster	11	5	0	5	0	1	125
WB Dartmouth	11	3	2	4	0	2	124
Barnt Green	11	4	1	4	0	2	115
Shrewsbury	11	3	0	5	0	3	99
Walsall	11	3	0	5	0	1	97
Walmley	11	2	2	6	0	1	86
Leamington	11	0	1	9	0	1	41

Division One

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Dorridge	11	6	2	1	0	2	176
Smethwick	11	6	1	2	0	2	160
Brockhampton	11	5	2	3	0	2	151
Himley	11	5	1	3	0	2	142
Barnards Green	11	4	2	2	0	3	139
Bridgnorth	11	4	2	4	0	1	119
Moseley	11	4	0	6	0	1	117
Bromsgrove	11	2	2	5	0	2	113
Attock	11	3	0	6	0	2	109
Wellington	11	3	1	4	0	3	105
Sutton Coldfield	11	2	2	4	0	3	90
Old Hill	11	1	1	6	0	3	74

Division Two

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Tamworth	11	7	1	2	0	1	172
Shifnal	11	6	2	3	0	2	172
Harborne	11	6	3	1	0	1	155
Halesowen	11	5	2	2	0	2	138
Old Elizabethans	11	4	1	5	0	1	138
Wombourne	11	4	3	3	0	1	137
Stratford-u-Avon	11	4	1	4	0	2	119
Coventry & N.W.	11	0	6	3	1	1	105
C & R Hawks	11	2	1	2	1	5	104
Penkridge	11	3	0	7	0	1	101
Oswestry	11	2	2	7	0	0	101
Stourbridge	11	1	0	7	0	3	73

Division Three

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Fordhouses	11	7	1	2	0	1	190
Pershore	11	8	0	2	0	1	188
Astwood Bank	11	6	0	3	0	2	174
Streetly	11	7	0	3	0	1	171
Handsworth	11	6	2	1	0	2	162
Newport	11	3	2	3	4	0	108
Brewood	11	3	1	5	0	2	106
Eastnor	11	2	2	4	0	3	88
Worfield	11	2	1	5	0	3	85
Lichfield	11	2	1	6	0	2	84
Aston Manor	11	1	2	6	0	2	64
Whitchurch	11	0	2	6	0	3	69

Second Teams

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Wolverhampton	11	6	2	1	0	2	174
Shifnal	11	6	0	2	0	3	143
Himley	11	4	2	2	0	3	134
Knowle & D	11	5	1	3	0	3	133
Walmley	11	3	2	3	0	3	130
Harborne	11	4	0	5	0	2	120
Brockhampton	11	3	1	4	0	3	118
Leamington	11	4	0	4	0	3	117
Moseley	11	2	2	5	0	2	112
WB Dartmouth	11	2	2	5	0	2	112
Halesowen	11	1	2	4	0	4	90
Kidderminster	11	1	3	5	0	2	77

Division One

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Astwood Bank	11	7	0	3	0	1	174
Kenilworth W	11	6	2	2	0	1	160
Old Elizabethans	11	6	1	3	0	1	157
Attock	11	5	1	4	0	1	147
Ombersley	11	5	0	4	0	2	132
Oswestry	11	4	1	4	0	2	124
Walsall	11	4	1	3	0	3	124
Coventry & N.W.	11	4	1	4	0	2	121
Barnt Green	11	3	1	6	0	1	114
Bridgnorth	11	2	3	3	0	3	103
Wellington	11	2	3	4	0	2	94
Shrewsbury	11	1	0	8	0	2	65

Division Two North

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Tamworth	11	7	1	3	0	2	186
Wombourne	11	7	2	0	0	2	174
Penkridge	11	6	0	2	0	3	153
Smethwick	11	4	2	2	0	3	147
Lichfield	11	6	0	4	0	1	143
Old Hill	11	5	0	5	0	1	127
Newport	11	4	1	4	0	2	121
Brewood	11	4	0	3	0	4	116
Fordhouses	11	3	1	3	0	4	100
C & R Hawks	11	1	1	8	0	1	67
Worfield	11	1	0	8	0	2	53
Whitchurch	11	0	0	9	0	1	47

Division Two South

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Pershore	11	7	2	1	0	1	186
Bromsgrove	11	7	0	2	0	2	161
Berkswell	11	5	2	1	0	3	158
Stratford-u-Avon	11	4	2	1	0	4	146
Aston Manor	11	4	2	2	0	2	139
Handsworth	11	5	0	4	0	2	137
Streetly	11	4	1	5	0	1	118
Barnards Green	11	4	1	6	0	0	109
Sutton Coldfield	11	3	0	5	0	3	106
Stourbridge	11	2	1	6	0	2	78
Eastnor	11	1	1	7	0	2	69
Dorridge	11	1	1	7	0	2	57

Shropshire County Cricket League

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Sentinel	12	9	0	1	2	211
Wem	12	8	0	2	2	190
Quatt	12	5	1	1	1	187
Ludlow & SS	12	5	0	3	3	156
Broseley	12	5	1	2	4	148
Albrighton	12	5	0	5	2	138
Madeley	12	4	1	4	3	137
Frankton	12	4	1	5	2	135
St Georges	12	2	1	7	2	103
Shelton	12	1	2	6	3	87
Forton	12	1	0	7	4	71
Bomere Heath	12	0	1	8	3	59

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Market Drayton	12	8	1	1	2	219
Newtown	12	7	2	1	2	213
Knockin & K	12	5	3	2	2	193
Cound	12	6	0	4	2	172
Wroxeter Grove	12	5	0	3	4	152
Beacon	12	4	2	3	3	151
Condover	12	4	0	5	3	138
Lilleshall	12	3	0	5	4	116
Alberbury	12	1	1	1	9	100
Pontesbury	12	3	0	7	2	92
Allscott	12	1	1	7	3	87
Wellington	12	0	0	8	4	57

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Montgomery	12	6	4	1	1	220
Welshpool	12	6	3	3	0	172
Wheaton Aston	12	5	2	2	3	168
Church Stretton	12	6	2	2	2	164
Prees	12	6	2	2	2	140
Bishops Castle	12	3	5	0	4	137
Iscoyd & FB	12	2	4	4	2	121
Ellesmere	12	2	2	5	3	112
Tibberton	12	3	3	3	3	107
Willey	12	2	2	5	3	91
Shrewsbury	12	1	3	5	3	91
Cae Glas	12	1	3	7	1	62

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Church Aston	12	5	3	0	4	191
Harpers	12	4	1	5	1	178
Trysull & S	12	5	3	1	1	173
Chelmarsh	12	5	1	2	4	168
Ludlow & SS	12	5	1	3	3	161
Shifnal	12	5	2	1	4	151
Hodnet & P'low	12	4	1	5	2	125
Corvedale	12	3	0	6	3	115
Calverhall	12	1	2	4	5	102
Much Wenlock	12	2	0	6	4	97
Harcourt	12	2	0	8	2	80
Llanidloes	12	2	0	7	2	64

Division 4

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
St Georges	12	8	0	1	3	205
Overton-on-Dee	12	6	1	2	3	173
Guilsfield	12	5	2	3	2	171
Acton Reynald	12	5	3	2	2	168
Bridgnorth	12	4	4	2	2	166
Coton Hall	12	5	1	4	2	159
Quayside	12	3	4	2	3	145
Wroxeter Grove	12	4	1	4	3	135
Hinstock	12	2	3	2	5	125
Beacon	12	1	1	8	2	66
Quatt	12	1	1	9	1	58
Allscott	12	1	1	6	4	54

Reserve Division 1

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
St Georges	12	10	1	0	1	238
Wem	12	7	1	2	2	189
Frankton	12	5	2	3	2	179
Quatt	12	4	4	3	2	167
Sentinel	12	5	1	4	2	166
Knockin & K	12	5	1	4	2	145
Wellington	12	3	2	6	1	128
Madeley	12	3	0	4	5	127
Cound	12	3	1	7	1	120
Ludlow & SS	12	3	1	7	1	120
Beacon	12	3	3	6	0	109
Alberbury	12	1	3	6	2	86

Reserve Division 2

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Shelton	12	6	3	1	2	207
Wroxeter Grove	12	5	5	1	1	182
Willey	12	5	1	3	3	173
Lilleshall	12	4	1	4	3	142
Pontesbury	12	5	3	3	1	140
Bomere Heath	12	3	2	2	5	136
Condover	12	3	2	5	2	128
Montgomery	12	2	3	3	4	128
Iscoyd & FB	12	2	1	5	1	127
Forton	12	5	0	5	2	115
Ellesmere	12	0	1	5	6	52
Cae Glas	12	0	3	7	2	50

Reserve Division 3

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Newtown	12	9	1	1	2	213
Market Drayton	12	7	0	1	4	192
Albrighton	12	7	0	2	3	188
Broseley	12	7	0	2	3	173
Whittington	12	7	1	3	1	164
Acton Reynald	12	2	0	5	5	131
Shifnal	12	5	0	3	4	152
Allscott	12	2	0	5	5	108
Much Wenlock	12	4	0	4	4	106
Bishops Castle	12	3	1	4	4	104
St Georges	12	2	0	5	5	101
Welshpool	12	3	3	3	3	90
Corvedale	12	3	0	8	1	83
Lilleshall	12	2	1	6	3	79
Shrewsbury	12	1	1	8	2	38
Llanidloes	12	0	2	9	1	4

Sunday Division 1

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Wellington	12	9	3	1	3	177
Worfield	12	6	0	3	3	169
Wem	12	4	3	1	4	158
Newport	12	3	3	1	5	150
Alberbury	12	1	6	0	5	139
Cound	12	1	5	0	6	132
Oswestry	12	1	3	2	6	129
Pontesbury	12	4	4	2	2	125
Knockin & K	12	2	5	1	4	119
Sentinel	12	1	2	5	4	89
Frankton	12	1	3	5	3	85
Bomere Heath	12	1	2	7	3	69

Sunday Division 2

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Market Drayton 10	5	1	0	4	159	
Lilleshall	10	4	1	1	4	139
Whitchurch	10	3	1	1	5	127
Ludlow & SS	10	3	2	1	4	114
Madeley	10	4	1	3	2	106
Wellington	10	2	2	2	4	92
Bridgnorth	10	2	0	4	4	81
Oswestry	10	2	1	3	4	66
Knockin & K	10	1	0	4	5	65
Madeley	10	0	1	4	4	50

Marches Cricket League

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	A	P
Luctonians	11	8	1	1	1	229
Garmons	11	7	2	0	2	186
Abergavenny	11	6	3	0	2	158
Kington	11	5	3	0	3	144
Woolhope	11	4	4	0	3	126
Goodrich	11	3	4	0	4	121
Canon F&M	11	3	4	0	3	115
Builth Wells	10	3	4	0	3	109
Glangrwyney	11	1	8	1	1	82
Ledbury	10	0	7	1	2	54

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	A	P
Brockhampton	9	5	0	3	1	196
Dales, H'ford	9	5	1	0	3	176
Luctonians	10	5	5	0	0	142
Almeley	10	3	5	2	0	117
Knighton/Teme	9	3	3	1	2	102
Colwall	10	3	5	2	0	88
Canon F&M	10	2	3	2	3	86
Builth Wells	10	1	4	2	2	64
Presteigne	9	1	5	0	3	53

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	A	P
Garmons	11	7	1	1	2	200
Eastnor	11	6	1	1	3	182
Abergavenny	11	5	3	1	2	177
Kington	11	3	4	2	2	123
Burghill, T&W	11	3	3	1	4	120
Strollers, H'ford	10	3	3	2	2	116
Goodrich	11	1	3	3	4	104
Moas	9	1	6	1	1	72
Eastnor	11	1	8	2	0	72
Bosbury	10	0	6	0	4	26

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	A	P
Talybont-on-Usk	11	9	1	0	1	224
Wormelow	11	8	1	0	2	196
Hay-on-Wye	11	7	3	0	1	177
Herefordians	11	6	2	1	2	163
Strollers, H'ford	11	4	3	2	2	126
Kington	11	4	3	0	4	125
Woolhope	11	1	4	3	3	124
Brockhampton	10	5	3	0	2	73
Colwall	11	2	7	0	2	68
Glangrwyney	9	2	7	1	0	41
Bartestree & L	10	1	7	2	0	39
Luctonians	11	1	8	1	1	-12

Henshalls Insurance SCCL U11 League

Group A

	P	W	L	F
Condover	5	4	1	16
Cound	5	3	2	12
Wem	5	2	3	8
Pontesbury	5	2	3	8
Beacon	5	1	4	4
Bishops Castle	4	1	3	4

YOUNGSTERS at Shrewsbury Lawn Tennis Club enjoyed taking part in an exciting LTA initiative aimed at inspiring 10,000 children across the UK to pick up a racket for the first time. The LTA recently launched Tennis for Kids – and Shrewsbury Lawn Tennis Club coach Mike Barton was selected as one of 1,000 coaches nationwide to take part in a programme with 10 juniors who had never played tennis before. The success of the project will see Shrewsbury Lawn Tennis Club hold a 'Wimbledon Festival' this Saturday, July 9 between 9am and noon. There is the chance for all juniors to take part in playing games and to win prizes, followed by hot dogs and also strawberries and cream. ■ Pictured: Mike Barton with youngsters - and their parents - at Shrewsbury Lawn Tennis Club.

Group B

	P	W	L	P
Oswestry	3	3	0	12
Whitchurch	3	3	0	12
Welshpool	5	2	3	8
Knockin	5	1	4	4
Montgomery	2	0	2	0

Tanners Claret Shropshire Bowling League

Shropshire Division 1

	P	W	L	D	P
Elephant & Castle	15	12	3	0	141
Telepost	15	10	5	0	130
Prince Hotel A	15	10	5	0	117
Castlefields	15	8	7	0	117
Pontesbury A	15	8	7	0	109
Hanwood	15	8	7	0	108
Ludlow Castle	14	7	7	0	106
George	14	8	6	0	102
Battlefield	15	5	10	0	101
Meole Brace A	15	6	9	0	91
Bricklayers A	15	7	8	0	89
OSBC	15	4	11	0	87
Crescent	15	6	9	0	87
Craven Arms	15	5	10	0	77

Shropshire Division 2

	P	W	L	D	P
Ifton	15	12	3	0	132
POWBC	14	10	4	0	119
Whittington	15	10	5	0	119
Prince Hotel B	15	9	6	0	115
Bicton A	15	8	7	0	114
Frankwell	15	6	9	0	113
Meole Brace V	15	9	6	0	110
Bishops Castle	14	7	7	0	104
Wem BC	15	6	9	0	98
Burway	15	7	8	0	92
Hadnall	15	6	9	0	89
Unison	15	6	9	0	87
Bayston Hill A	15	5	10	0	82
Albert Road BC	15	5	10	0	82

Shropshire Division 3

	P	W	L	D	P
Greenfields Social	16	12	4	0	158
Pontesbury B	16	11	5	0	148
Severnside St Julians	16	11	5	0	143
Oxon	14	11	3	0	136
Church Club	15	11	4	0	136
Oxon Village	15	11	4	0	134
Wem USC	16	9	7	0	129
Corbet Arms	15	10	5	0	125
Bagley	16	9	7	0	113
Bricklayers B	15	8	7	0	104
Worthen & Brockton	15	5	10	0	68
Monkmoor	14	4	10	0	65
Bicton B	16	2	14	0	63
Severnside	15	3	12	0	53
Bayston Hill B	16	0	16	0	39

Shrewsbury Division 1

	P	W	L	D	P
Pontesbury A	14	9	5	0	102
Telepost A	13	9	4	0	100
Crescent A	13	8	5	0	92
Meole Brace A	14	8	6	0	90
Prince Hotel A	13	9	4	0	89
OSBC B	13	8	5	0	82
Castlefields B	14	8	5	1	82
Battlefield A	13	5	7	1	77
Bricklayers A	14	6	7	1	77
Hanwood A	13	6	7	0	72
Bicton A	13	4	9	0	65
POWBC C	14	5	9	0	65
Pontesbury B	11	1	10	0	39

Shrewsbury Division 2

	P	W	L	D	P
Prince Hotel B	14	9	5	0	97
St Julians	13	9	4	0	94
Albert Road BC	14	8	6	0	94
Oxon Village	14	9	5	0	94
Unison	14	8	6	0	86
Greenfields Social A	14	7	7	0	85
Bayston Hill A	14	6	8	0	80
Battlefield B	14	6	8	0	82
Meole Brace V	14	7	7	0	80
Bricklayers B	13	7	6	0	78
Frankwell	13	8	5	0	78
Dorrington	14	6	8	0	71
Oxon	13	2	11	0	44

Shrewsbury Division 3

	P	W	L	D	P
Corbet Arms	11	10	1	0	96
POWBC A	12	7	5	0	80
Bagley A	12	8	4	0	79
Bicton B	12	7	5	0	78
Monkmoor	12	6	6	0	69
Meole Brace B	12	5	7	0	66
Elephant & Castle	12	5	7	0	66
Osbc A	12	4	8	0	65
Crescent B	12	4	8	0	62
Castlefields C	11	5	6	0	60
POWBC B	12	4	8	0	59

Shrewsbury Division 4

	P	W	L	D	P
Telepost B	11	10	1	0	99
Hanwood B	12	11	1	0	99
Meole Brace C	11	8	3	0	85
Greenfields Social B	12	7	5	0	79
Pontesbury D	12	8	4	0	76
Pontesbury C	11	7	4	0	75
Bayston Hill B	12	4	8	0	59
Severnside	11	3	8	0	51
Worthen & Brockton	12	1	11	0	50
Minsterley	11	2	9	0	44
Bagley B	11	2	9	0	39

Whitchurch Bowling League

Division 1

	P	W
Wem Usc A	168	1093198
Woore A	168	1093098
Adderley A	168	973029
Bridgewater A	168	912986
Chester Rd A	168	942957
Ifton	168	912912
District A	168	662816
Prees A	168	822790
Hanmer A	156	862279
Awc A	156	892760
Malpas Spts A	168	682742
Wem A	168	602739
Childs Ercall	168	622638
Malpas Fmrs A	168	612601

Division 2

	P	W
Audlem A	168	1023061
Hadnall A	168	1073046
Harriers	168	993041
Hodnet A	168	1002979
Ash A	168	922950
Chester Rd B	168	852914
Nant Pk Rd A	168	852880
Calverhall A	168	742877
Malpas A	168	712870
Victoria A	168	792823
Awc B	168	892812
District B	168	722695
Con Club	168	612617
Prees B	168	602573

Division 3

	P	W
Wrenbury B	168	1063092
Hanmer B	168	973052
Pr Brockhurst A	168	993039
Whixall A	168	962989
Cheswardine A	168	872986
Adderley B	168	922952
Woore B	168	922849
Wrenbury A	168	812836
Tilstock A	168	712826
Audlem B	168	822823
Chester Rd Ld A	168	692791
Wem B	168	732752
Wem Albion A	168	692715
Malpas Spts B	168	612587

Division 4

	P	W
Malpas B	156	952899
Barony Park	156	852827
Edgmond	156	872786
Joules Mkt Drayton	156	802755
Malpas Fmrs B	156	852740
Chester Rd C	156	832740
Prees C	156	772698
Wrenbury C	156	762697
N In Hales A	156	762649
Awc E	144	822625
Nant Pk Rd B	156	622480
Ellesmere D	156	542464
Whixall B	156	562383

Division 5

	P	W
Hadnall B	168	1083078
Ash B	168	943030
Bridgewater C	168	982967
Hodnet B	168	942938
Tilstock B	168	902902
Ellesmere C	168	872897
Wem C	168	812852
Newport	156	962820
Cholmondeley B	168	802801
District C	168	742760
Audlem C	168	752756
Calverhall B	168	692713
Awc C	156	662454
Cholmondeley A	168	622420

Division 6

	P	W
Ruabon	168	1203187
Prees E	168	922981
Wollerton	168	922963
Hanmer C	168	1022942
District D	168	882899
Awc D	168	922882
Wem Albion B	168	862831
Whixall C	168	842831
Malpas Fmrs C	168	792727
Chester Rd Ld B	168	772726
Malpas C	168	722682
N In Hales B	168	682651
Adderley C	168	662609
Nant Pk Rd C	168	602558

Division 7

	P	W
Wem USC B	168	1343257
Chester Rd D	168	1023014
Chester Rd Ld C	168	953011
Wrenbury D	168	1032919
Victoria B	168	902862
Ash C	168	882859
Cheswardine B	168	942824
Prees D	168	862814
Whixall D	168	822646
Tilstock C	168	772621
Nantwich Park Rd D	168	582443
Audlem D	167	622392
Calverhall C	168	582284
Chester Rd Ld D	167	452070

Market Drayton Bowls

Division 1

	P	W	D	A	P
Hanmer A	130	882471			
Bridgewater A	130	902443			
Malpas Spts A	130	872372			
District A	130	642311			
Childs Ercall A	130	672303			
Prees A	130	692300			
A W C D	130	682295			
Adderley B	130	542206			
Victoria A	130	532174			
Chester Rd A	130	552173			
N'wich Pk A	130	582160			
Audlem A	130	532158			
Woore A	130	552122			
Bridgewater B	130	482072			

Division 2

	P	W	D	A	P
Ash A	130	862408			
Malpas Fmr A	130	752381			
Wrenbury A	130	812365			
Hodnet A	130	792358			
Con Club	130	752303			
Prees B	130	722302			
Whixall A	130	682281			
Audlem B	130	642276			
C'wardine A	130	542168			
Malpas A	130	552148			
Chester Rd B	130	562140			
Calverhall A	130	622133			
Malpas Fmr B

Clarke off to Bunbury Cricket Festival

YOUNG Oswestry batsman Xavi Clarke has been picked to represent the Midlands at the prestigious Bunbury Cricket Festival.

Clarke, the younger brother of Worcestershire batsman Joe, is one of four players involved in the Worcestershire Academy-Pathway chosen for the squad.

The 15-year-old is a regular in Oswestry's team in the Birmingham Premier League with a top score this season of 93 against Stourbridge, and also plays for Shropshire under-15s.

The Llanfyllin High School student who also bowls leg spin is a member of the Worcestershire Satellite Academy based in Shropshire at Shrewsbury School under the guidance of former Pears seamer Paul Pridgeon.

He joins fellow Worcestershire hopefuls Jack Haynes, Zain Hassan and Matthew Davis in the 14-man Midlands squad.

Shropshire wicket-keeper batsman Daniel Humes from Shrewsbury School is on the four-man reserve list.

The Bunbury Festival is being held at Radley College in Oxfordshire this year from July 17 to 22 and will showcase the skills of 56 of the most talented England Under-15 players in the country.

The annual festival organised by philanthropist and cricket fanatic David English has helped discover and nurture many talented cricketers over the past 30 years. More than 300 Bunburys have gone onto play first class cricket - and over 60 have represented England.

Cricket Shropshire General Manager Richard Cox said: "Congratulations to Xavi on his selection for the Bunbury Festival.

"Hopefully it can be the springboard for him to go on and play cricket at an even higher level. It also shows other youngsters in the county there is a clear pathway from playing school and club cricket to representative honours."

The Midlands will do battle with three other sides from the North, South-West and London-East after a couple of warm up games in the coming weeks.

Teams will participate in three games of 50 over cricket on a round robin basis, two T20 semi-finals and a T20 final day.

Welshpool golfers book final ticket

WELSHPOOL Golf Club's Tomi Bowen (6), Richard Templeton (5), Harry Bowen (3) and Mark Fletcher (5) played some outstanding golf to beat Morriston Golf Club 4&1 at Builth Wells to book their place in the finals of the Scratch Welsh Team Championships.

Not to be outdone, the ladies represented by Margaret Bowen (16) and Ann Newell (18), beat Church Stretton on Saturday in the Daily Mail foursomes 5&4 to go through to the next round of the competition.

On Saturday Welshpool men played Llanidloes at home in the Montgomeryshire Golf League winning by 246 points to 200.

Those men not playing in league were able to compete in the fifth round of the President's Cup. Dan Stephens (5) won with 37 points, Mark Bell (11) was second on countback with 34 points from Mark Fletcher (5) also on 34 points.

Sunday heralded the best weather of the week and a fitting backdrop for the always popular AM/AM competition for teams of four comprising both men and women.

Including visitors, a total of 27 teams competed and some fine golf was played. The winners were Kevin Morris, Dale Hardy, Steve Proctor and Mark Hughes with a combined score of 121 points.

For the seniors, the Captain's Trophy bogey competition was played on Tuesday. The runaway winner was Sue Jones (15) with +5, coming 2nd was Anne Newell (18) scoring evens pushing Keith Roberts into third place on count-back.

On Thursday, a seniors' mixed team played a match at Lakeside, going down 4 to 2 with one match being halved.

High-flying Monty move clear at top

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

HIGH-FLYING Montgomery tightened their grip at the top of the Henshalls Shropshire Cricket League division two with a 68-run win over one of their chief rivals Wheaton Aston.

After beating the wet weather, Monty posted 160-7 in their 40 overs, before dismissing their second placed visitors for 92 with four overs remaining to claim a victory that took them 48 points clear at the top.

Opener Andrew Barker helped set up a competitive total for the league leaders after finishing unbeaten on 67, while in-form all rounder Aaron Ruff-cock weighed in with 33 at No3, while Alex Curtiss was the pick of the bowlers with 4-42.

Wheaton Aston were soon on the back foot in reply as the home attack got to work, with the only resistance coming from skipper Natham Whittingham who hit 38.

James Corfield led the way with 3-12 off 11 miserly overs, while Harry Wilkinson picked up 2-10 off six to help see off the visitors.

WELSHPOOL are now up to second, but still 48 points behind Monty, after their winning draw against Bishop's Castle at Maesydre.

Put in to bat in a match reduced to 35 overs a side due to earlier rain, Pool were restricted to 119-8, Russell Cadwallader top scoring with 25, while Paul Chapman also chipped in with 21.

But Castle struggled to shake off the shackles in reply, closing on a pedestrian 74-4 after their allotted overs. Pool picked up 12 points for their efforts.

Tom Anderson (4-21 off 12 overs) took all four wickets to fall as Richard Fifield (25no) held firm for Castle.

Elsewhere in division two, the rain put an end to **CAE GLAS'** home clash with Prees, the game being called off without a ball bowled, with both teams picking up five points. The Glas remain at the foot of the table, 29 points adrift of their nearest rivals.

ELLESMERE were also sidelined by the weather, having to settle for five points after their home fixture with Tibberton was abandoned.

A fine all round display from Sam Birch helped **GUILSFIELD** step up their promotion push in the Shropshire League division four with a crushing 98-run win at home to Quatt III that yielded 24 points.

First, Birch hit 55 and Dave Lewis 30 as third placed Guilsfield were bowled out for 124 in the 23rd over, Anthony Marsh finishing with 3-8 for the visitors.

And the all rounder followed it up with a stirring spell of 5-15 in 10 overs as Quatt crumbled to 36 all out in reply, fellow opening bowler Rob Owen also weighing in with 3-6 off six overs.

Riley riding high for Paragon win

Adam Riley – on his way to another 10-mile victory for Oswestry Paragon

HIGH-RIDING Adam Riley pedalled to a second consecutive victory at the 10 mile distance in round nine of Oswestry Paragon's evening time trials series.

With the blustery conditions making it tougher going than the previous week, Paragon rider Riley came home in 25 minutes 12 seconds.

In second place, four seconds back, was his club mate Darrell Walsh (25.16) who had recorded a personal best at 25 miles in the SCCA Championship event the previous evening. The top four places were closely fought with DJ Fanning, of Clwb Beicio Bala, finishing third in 25.24, ahead of fourth place Tim Jones of Mid Shropshire Wheelers (25.36).

Continuing with his comeback from injury, Paragon rider Glyn Jones took sixth place in 26.01, while Tom Shelton was fastest junior finishing seventh overall in 26.50 on his first ride this year.

Two Paragon competitors took eighth and ninth positions with Steve Humphreys (26.56) edging out Bruce Selby (27.11).

On a night when many riders went slower, there was another personal best and a top 10 place for 12-year-old Jack Young who crossed the line in 27.17. One junior girl took part with Megan Jones of Mid Shropshire Wheelers finishing in 36.26.

Despite the draw of the Euro 2016 and blustery conditions with the threat of rain, there was still a good turnout of 21 riders for the latest of the evening time trials series.

Shropshire Cricket Lge fixtures at weekend

Saturday

Premier Division

Bomere Heath v Forton; Frankton v Sentinel; Ludlow & South Shropshire v Shelton; Quatt v Albrighton; St Georges v Madeley; Wem v Broseley.

Division One

Allscott v Wellington; Condover v Newtown; Cound v Alberbury; Lilleshall v Market Drayton; Pontesbury v Beacon; Wroxeter Grove v Knockin & Kinnerley.

Division Two

Bishop's Castle v Cae Glas; Iscoyd & Fenns Bank v Montgomery; Prees v Willey; Shrewsbury v Church Stretton; Tibberton v Welshpool; Wheaton Aston v Ellesmere.

Division Three

Chelmarsh v Trysull & Seisdon; Church Aston v Harcourt; Corvedale v Llanidloes; Ludlow & South Shropshire v Calverhall; Much Wenlock v Harpers; Shifnal v Hodnet & Peplow.

Division Four

Acton Reynald v Bridgnorth; Beacon v Guilsfield; Hinstock v Allscott; Quatt v Coton Hall; St Georges v Quayside; Wroxeter Grove v Overton-on-Dee.

Reserve Division One

Alberbury v Cound; Beacon v Ludlow & South Shropshire; Knockin & Kinnerley v Wem; Madeley v St Georges; Sentinel v Frankton; Wellington v Quatt.

Reserve Division Two

Cae Glas v Lilleshall; Ellesmere v Wroxeter Grove; Forton v Bomere Heath; Montgomery v Iscoyd & Fenns Bank; Shelton v Pontesbury; Willey v Condover.

Reserve Division Three

Albrighton v Allscott; Broseley v Much Wenlock; Lilleshall v Shifnal; Llanidloes v Corvedale; Market Drayton v St Georges; Newtown v Shrewsbury; Welshpool v Acton Reynald; Whittington v Bishop's Castle.

Sunday

Division One

Knockin & Kinnerley v Frankton; Newport v Oswestry; Pontesbury v Alberbury; Sentinel v Cound; Wellington v Bomere Heath; Worfield v Wem.

Division Two

Bridgnorth v Madeley; Lilleshall v Ludlow & South Shropshire; Madeley v Wellington; Market Drayton v Knockin & Kinnerley; Oswestry v Whitchurch.

Whittington eye hat-trick of promotions

WHITTINGTON'S cricketers stand on the verge of achieving promotion for the third season in a row after taking their winning run in the Shrewsbury and District Evening Cricket League to 16 games with a tense one run victory over Bedouins at Oswestry's Morda Road.

After going unbeaten throughout in the league last season, the villagers have so far chalked up seven victories from seven games this term.

With three fixtures remaining, one more win should secure Whittington's place in the midweek top flight for 2017.

Their latest success could hardly be much closer with the outcome coming down to the very last ball of the match.

Jonny Mitchell (59) and Scott Hale (55no) saw Whittington to 158-1 in their 20 overs before Bedouins finished one run short despite an unbeaten 70 from Robbie Clarke.

It has been a good season for the club all round as the weekend team are back competing in the Shropshire Cricket League after being missing in 2015.

Anybody interested in playing should contact the club on cricketbowlsclub@aol.co.uk

High fives as Williams stars with the ball

SECOND placed Knockin & Kinnerley stayed hard on the heels of the Henshalls Shropshire League division one leaders after their exciting four run win over in-form Cound at The Nursery Ground.

They had to dig deep after struggling early on when opting to bat first, being reduced to 35-5 and 73-7 with Andy Harrison taking 5-38 off 15 overs.

But they managed to claw their way to 142 all out off the penultimate ball of the 50th over through Paul Higginson (34), Gary Darlington (29) and a useful 15 not out from No11 Jamie Jagger.

After losing both their openers cheaply, Matt Jones (35) and Farrell Waters (28) helped steady the ship for Cound who looked well placed at 84-2. But wickets started to fall and, despite 22 from skipper Harrison, the visitors just came up short old 138, with Marcus Williams the standout performer for Knockin with 5-19 off 10 overs to help secure a maximum 25 points.

FRANKTON consolidated mid-table in the premier division after securing a convincing seven wicket win over Forton.

Their bowlers did the damage, dismissing their visitors for just 83 in 30 overs with Stuart Lammie (3-27) and Michael Eckard (3-17) sharing six wickets, while Jacob Northwood picked up 2-16.

Eckard then hit an unbeaten 40 in 37 balls, with one six and five fours, to take Frankton to a comfortable victory for the loss of three wickets, Thomas Wilkie also weighing in with 31.

Skipper digs in but Oswestry slip again

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

A STIRRING all round display by skipper Jonathan Miles proved to no avail as Oswestry crashed to a 46-run defeat at Penkridge to remain in the lower reaches of the Birmingham Cricket League division two,

When the Morda Road side arrived at the Staffordshire ground it was practically under water, and the likelihood of any play seemed remote.

However, the home club worked hard to get play under way, and they got their reward as Oswestry put up a miserable performance.

Play was restricted to 33 overs a side, and each bowler to 10, with Miles returning 1-14 from his full quota after inviting Penkridge to bat.

With any luck he could have taken five or six wickets, but that commodity has been in short supply for Oswestry this season – and some big hitting by home skipper Laiq Chishti (74no) lifted his side to 163-6. Mark Robinson was the most successful Oswestry bowler with 3-46.

The visitors lost Joe Carrasco in the first over of their reply, and he was soon followed by a succession of team-mates as the innings collapsed to 40-6.

Miles led a rearguard action, as he and Robbie Clarke (12) more than doubled the score before Clarke was caught on the long-off boundary with the total on 87.

The skipper was eventually last man out for 61, including seven fours and two sixes, as the innings ended on 117 all out.

Penkridge took 24 points to Oswestry's four, meaning the sides are now level at the wrong end of the table.

OSWESTRY II secured a comfortable winning draw against an unadventurous Wellington seconds side at Morda Road in the Birmingham 2nd League division one.

Half-centuries for James O'Reilly (58) and Jonny Davies (50) lifted Oswestry to 189-5 off their 35 overs after openers Michael O'Reilly and Scott Hale had both made 22.

Wellington made no attempt to chase the runs after home skipper Adam Lloyd ran opener Tom Masters for a duck, and they finished on 106-3.

Visiting opener Steve Moules made watching paint dry seem a pleasurable experience by batting right through the innings for 45no, while Ian Davies took 2-31.

OSWESTRY III's game with Shropshire League Sunday division one leaders Wem III at Morda Road was rained off without a ball being bowled – the sixth abandonment for the third team in 11 games this season.

The weather also halted Oswestry IV who had reached 81-4 when rain ended their game at Lilleshall III.

■ Oswestry begin the second half of the season with a trip to high-flying Harborne on Saturday (midday), while the seconds are at home to Kenilworth Wardens II (12.30).

The Thirds visit Newport Thirds on Sunday, when the fourths entertain Whitchurch III at Morda Road (both 1.30)

Clarke wins Lions call

SHROPSHIRE cricketer Joe Clarke has been called up by England Lions for a 50-over Tri-Series against the A teams of Pakistan and Sri Lanka later this month.

Former Wellington and Oswestry wicketkeeper/batsman Clarke is named in a 13-man squad. The 20-year-old was in fine form for Worcestershire this week, hitting his third Championship century of the season.

The series starts on July 18 at Cheltenham, where the Lions play their first game against Pakistan A the following day.

The Lions face Sri Lanka A in Northampton on July 21 before the last two matches against the same opponents in Canterbury on July 24 and 25.

Jenkins is spot-on as Guils get flying start

A LATE penalty from Adam Jenkins gave Guilsfield the perfect start to their pre-season with an excellent 2-1 friendly success against Newtown.

Andy Ford had given the home side the lead, before a terrific volley from Ryan Kershaw, a new signing from The New Saints, pulled the Robins level.

But within seconds Jenkins slotted home a penalty at the other end after being brought down in the box to seal the win for Danny Barton's men.

Victory over a Welsh Premier side will provide an early boost for Guilsfield as they look to challenge in the Cymru Alliance this season.

They spurned a good chance in the opening two minutes when Jenkins was denied with just keeper Dave Jones to beat, while Sam Lichfield glanced an effort wide in another raid. But the Guils took the lead on the half hour as Ford slotted home after a through ball from winger Jack Richards.

Manager Barton had the ball in the net but his diving header was chalked off for offside, while home keeper Lee Andrew saved from Luke Boundford at the other end.

Newtown upped their game after the break as Ross Stephens headed against the bar, before new signing Kershaw crashed home a leveller five minutes from time.

However, within seconds the Guils were back in front as Jenkins converted from the spot after Jack Hughes had fouled the forward in the box.

Cymru Alliance neighbours **LLANFAIR UNITED** were 4-0 winners against Shrewsbury side Haughmond at Newtown's Latham Park.

On-a-roll Hughes shines for George

IN-FORM John Hughes continued his excellent season as George stayed firmly in the promotion mix in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division three with an 8-2 home beating of Fox Lane.

Hughes, one of the leaders in he averages, chalked up his 11th win in 12 outings with a 21-10 verdict as George notched a 154-121 shots success, with Lance Leonard (21-6) their best of the night.

Victory kept them third in the table, in touching distance of the pacesetters, while Fox Lane remain mid-table, with their best response coming from Gareth Davies, who won to 10.

BLACK LION are also going well, with their 7-3 (152-127) success away to Chirk B keeping them in pole position, with Andrew Jones their best of the night when prevailing 21-4.

LLANYMYNECH B stayed on the promotion trail in division four after seeing off visiting Plas Kynaston B 8-2 (165-105), Jack Worden leading the way to four and James Candlin prevailing to eight. Llany are second, eight points off the pace.

CHURCH C are hard on Llany's heels in third place after storming to an 8-2 (159-110) victory at Cynwyd B, Peter Adams having a whitewash while Roy Jones and Steve Turner both won to eight.

There's no stopping **IFTON** who tightened their grip at the top of division five with a 9-1 (161-72) home romp against **WHITTINGTON E,** with no fewer than six single figure winners.

Tanya Metcalfe was the best of the night to four while Nick Jones and Curtis Metcalfe both prevailed 21-5.

Darryl Kershaw (21-5) helped second placed **CRIFTINS E** keep the pressure on the leaders in division six with an 8-2 (149-105) home success against Cynwyd C.

In division two, despite a 21-6 hand from Emrys Jones, **CHURCH B** succumbed 7-3 (142 -119) at **CRIFTINS B,** whose James Gillam also won to six.

Results

Division three: Ruabon B 4 (121) Johnstown D 6 (146), Ellesmere A 7 (146) Whittington E 3 (106), George 8 (154) Fox Lane 2 (121), Chirk B 3 (127) Black Lion 7 (152).

Division four: Llanymynech B 8 (165) Plas Kynaston B 2 (105), Llangynog C 8 (138) Cynwyd B 2 (85), Ceiriog Valley C 9 (160) Llanfyllin A 1 (82), Llanrhaeadr C 2 (110) Church C 8 (159), Weston Rhyn C 8 (161) Overton B 2 (119), Johnstown E 4 (141) Llanrhaeadr B 6 (143).

Division five: Ye Olde Crofte B 4 (127) Weston Rhyn B 6 (149), Ifton 9 (161) Whittington D 1 (72), Whittington C 8 (149) Church D 2 (105), Chirk C 6 (139) Criftins D 4 (135).

Division six: Church E 7 (134) Ponciau Park 3 (131), Llanrhaeadr E 1 (95) Pentre Broughton 9 (164), Llanymynech C Llanfyllin B, Criftins E 8 (149) Cynwyd C 2 (105), Weston Rhyn D 7 (147) Llangynog B 3 (131).

The New Saints are still in this Euro tie

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

The New Saints 0 APOEL Nicosia 0

THE New Saints kept alive their chances of making further progress in this season's Champions League with a goalless stalemate against classy Cypriots APOEL Nicosia at Park Hall.

Despite being on the back foot for long spells against a side brimming with European pedigree, the Saints gave a display full of resolve and discipline.

They held firm in the first leg of the second qualifying round to give themselves everything to play for in next Tuesday's return in Cyprus.

It promises to be a tough task in the heat of the Mediterranean, but the Welsh Premier champions can take heart from the way they stifled their visitors who lacked attacking poise despite all their possession.

The Oswestry hosts defended stoutly throughout with Phil Baker rock solid in the heart of the backline as he made his 30th European start, a record for a Welsh Premier player.

The Cypriots enjoyed the bulk of possession, but TNS held firm and restricted their visitors largely to stray long-range efforts.

Territory

For TNS, Jamie Mullan saw an early cross clutched low down by keeper Boy Waterman, while Scott Quigley's header was comfortably saved after Adrian Cieslewicz had pulled back a Chris Marriott cross.

APOEL, quarter-finalists four years ago, enjoyed the bulk of territory as they forced the Welsh domestic treble winners deep, but clear-cut opportunities were in short supply.

Pieros Soteriou cut in from the left to force a routine save from keeper Paul Harrison and Brazilian Vander fired wide moments later from edge of box.

Strong and composed in possession, APOEL continued to dictate matters with patient build-up play, keeping their hosts at full stretch.

Argentinian Tomas De Vincenti pulled the ball wide from the edge of the box midway through the half after latching onto a stray pass from defender Connell Rawlinson, while another Brazilian Vincius volleyed over from close range moments later.

TNS, who were already without full-back Simon Spender before kick-off, suffered another setback 10 minutes from half-time when energetic midfielder Aeron Edwards was forced off with injury.

To their credit, however, they ran at and harried APOEL on the break, happy to sit deep as the Cypriots struggled to find the finishing touch despite posting several promising moves in and around the box.

The game continued in similar fashion after the break, with Georgios Efrem curling an exquisite 25-yarder from the left just past the far post as the Cypriots lacked any end product to their attacking endeavours.

TNS themselves were feeding on scraps of possession, but had a couple of half-chances with substitute Chris Seargeant seeing a low shot easily saved by keeper Waterman while Ryan Brobbel blazed a couple of efforts high and wide.

At the other end, captain Harrison pulled off a smart diving save to deny former Chelsea man Nuno Morais from outside the box, while Vicenti volleyed over when well placed to underline the visitors' frustration.

Vander had a shot blocked late on, while the Saints survived a couple of late skirmishes to deservedly finish all square on the night.

The New Saints: P Harrison, Marriott, Rawlinson, Baker, Pryce, Routledge, Edwards (Sergeant 35), Cieslewicz (Parry 88), Brobel (Williams 72), Mullan, Quigley. **Subs not used:** Mullock, Saunders, Draper, Darlington.

APOEL Nicosia: Waterman, Milanov, Carlao, Astiz, Alexandrou, De Vincenti, Efrem (Aloneftis 82), Vinicius (Orlandi 70), Morais, Vander, Soteriou. **Subs not used.** Artymatas, Bressan, Pardo, Merkis, Sergio.

Referee: Hugo Miguel (Portugal).

Right turn – TNS ace Adrian Cieslewicz swerves past Nicosia's Andrea Orlandi at Park Hall

Whittington make their case for bowls title

THE title race in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division one is hotting up with Whittington A underlining their credentials with an 8-2 victory at basement club Weston Rhyn.

Victory by 28 shots (148-120) sees Whittington third, just two points adrift of leaders Johnstown A who succumbed 8-2 (162-138) at title rivals Ceiriog Valley A.

Merv Davies led the way with a 21-8 victory while Graham Humphreys weighed in with a 21-11 verdict. Rhyn's two winners were Sue Taylor (21-7) and Andy Riley (21-15), but they are two points adrift at the foot of the table.

CHURCH A remain second-bottom after a 10-0 whitewash at Chirk A, whose 74-shot (168-94) success puts them fourth.

CRIFTINS A took an 8-2 (163-119) beating at Johnstown B despite wins for Mark Price and Alan Morris. Elsewhere, Ruabon saw off Corwen A 7-3 (148-128).

High-flying LLANRHAEADR A are four points clear at the top of division two after overcoming visiting Flexsys A 7-3 (153-122). Steve Jones led the way with a 21-5 verdict. Hywel Jones (21-7) and Brian Jones (21-9) were also good single-figure winners.

LLANYMYNECH A, in third place, maintained their push courtesy of a fine 8-2 (152-121) win at WHITTINGTON B. Dougie Briscoe, Henry Pugh and Mark Kirkham all won to eight, as did the home side's Richard Beaman.

CHURCH B lost 8-2 (150-124) at home to Cynwyd A, their replies coming through Dave Milner (21-6) and William Lewis (21-18).

ELLESMERE B swept aside YE OLDE CROFTE 9-1 (151-100), Mike Edwards and Ray Batha winning to two and three respectively with Steve Thomas (21-4) replying. CRIFTINS C went down 7-3 (147-126) at Llangynog A to remain second-bottom, while CRIFTINS B beat Bersham 8-2 (161-115).

Fixtures, Tuesday, division one: Corwen A v Johnstown B, Overton A v Ruabon A, Church A v Ceiriog Valley A, Whittington A v Chirk A, Criftins A v Llangollen A, Johnstown A v Weston Rhyn A. **Division two:** Cynwyd A v Llangynog A, Llanymnech A v Church B, Flexsys A v Criftins B, Ye Olde Crofte A v Llanrhaeadr A, Bersham v Ellesmere B. **Wednesday, division two:** Criftins C v Whittington B.

Team Parry storm home for rally win

WELSHMAN Elfyn Evans and Oswestry based co-driver Craig Parry turned up the heat in the Nicky Grist Stages to take victory on round five of the seven round MSA British Rally Championship.

The DMACK British Rally team made it three wins from five and their second 'home' victory in Wales this season. They now have a 39-point championship lead.

Fellow Welshman Tom Cave equalled his season best with a fine second while Desi Henry completed the podium after a tough two-day encounter.

Based in Builth Wells, the Nicky Grist Stages is a unique event on the BRC calendar with the two days split into two surfaces.

Biblical weather greeted the competitors on the opening day with crews slipping and sliding through 45 miles of forestry gravel stages before tackling the famous Tarmac on the Epynt Ranges on the second day.

The next round of the BRC is the Ulster Rally on the 19/20 August.

Forden quit Spar League after going up

NEWLY promoted Forden United have sensationally withdrawn from the Spar Mid Wales League after stepping up from the Montgomeryshire Amateur League just a few weeks before.

"It is with great regret that Forden United have now decided not to enter the Spar Football League," said a club statement.

"After an overwhelming three years and the success this year when becoming champions of our respective league, it is with a heavy heart that we have had to put the club on the back burner for the time being.

"This unfortunate decision was reached after the loss of many players who have moved on to other clubs as well as not being able to fill the vacant manager's position."

Big win sees ladies net maximum points

INJURY-HIT Oswestry Ladies first team pulled off an inspired 8-0 win at Shrewsbury to re-ignite their challenge in the Shropshire Ladies Tennis League division one.

With ongoing and new injuries circulating, the team they knew that it was going to be a tough ask to return with a good result as they headed to the county town.

Captain Josie Macrae and partner Kat Oakley started off against Shrewsbury's first pair with a long, tough rubber, but were victorious after two tie breaks.

And the second pair of Flo Malherbe and Fiona Russell produced precise tennis to outplay their Shrewsbury counterparts to put their side two up going into the reverse rubbers.

Macrae and Oakley then got off to a slow start against the opposing second pair and conceded the first set.

But they got back into their stride to take the second set before forcing a deciding third set tie break which they won.

Malherbe and Russell started off where they left off in the first rubber and made short work of the opposing first pair in straight sets.

TENNIS by John Bridgwater

It was a great win for the Oswestry ladies with a maximum eight points being gained to leave them fighting for the top spot in division one.

The men's third team played their last two fixtures on consecutive evenings in division 7N, their first away, albeit just around the corner, against their close rivals Oswestry Team Tennis.

The weather was not favourable and most of the fixture was played in heavy rain, but the first pair of Andy Clarke and Craig Nurse, playing for the first time as a pair, found instant rapport to win both their rubbers.

They won convincingly against their young opponents, 6-2, 6-0 against the OTT first pair and then 6-2, 6-1 against the second pair.

Oswestry's second pairing of captain Keith Grice and Richard Hann struggled in the first rubber against the OTT second pair and, despite taking the first set 6-4, they lost out on the second set tie-break and the deciding third set tie-break to lose the rubber.

They then came through strongly in their second rubber to win against the OTT first pair with a double bagel 6-0, 6-0 giving the team seven points.

The following evening they played host to Baschurch third team and both Oswestry pairings of acting captain Andy Clarke and Craig Nurse as the first pair, along with Richard Hann and Chris Smith, the second pair, got off to a good start.

Clarke and Nurse continued their good form from the previous evening against the Baschurch first pair, taking the first set 6-4 and keeping their composure to come back from a 1-4 deficit in the second to clinch it 6-4. Hann and Smith, playing the Baschurch seconds, were also on their game, winning the rubber in straight sets 6-2, 6-2.

The reverse rubber saw Clarke and Nurse again prevailing, winning comfortably 6-2, 6-2, but Hann and Smith struggled against the Baschurch first pair, losing the rubber 1-6, 4-6.

Another seven points for the team concluded their season and they are looking in a good position for promotion dependant on a couple of other results yet to come in.

Ifton cruise home and in mood to climb

IFTON'S bowlers proved too strong for rock bottom Hanwood USC as they stormed to a resounding 12-2 home victory in the Flowfit Shropshire Premier Bowls League.

Despite the victory, they remain in eighth spot, but have a game in hand on their rivals, many of whom lie just a few points above.

David Rocky Jones was the best of the night, taking the most valuable player honour for his 21-6 success against Phil King to help set up a convincing 236-154 verdict for the St Martins side.

Dave Bond, Nicky Jones and Leighton Roberts, who all won 21-8, were other single figure winners, while Martin Jones and skipper Dicky Jones prevailed to 10 and 11 respectively.

Carl Roberts and Keiron Roberts both won to 13, while Ian Metcalfe (21-17) and Darren Lacey (21-18) completed the winning line-up.

Buoyed by the win, Ifton now face a tougher test when they head to fourth placed St Georges on Saturday.

Bowlers count down to triples

LLANFAIR Caereinon Bowling Club stages its annual Open Triples competition on Saturday, July 23, with a 10am start.

The final is set to take place at 6pm and entries must be submitted by July 21 at 6pm when the draw will be made.

Winners will pick up £175 while there will be £75 for the runners-up.

Sport

Cycling
Riley is riding high in Paragon win – P38

Cricket
Monty go clear at the summit – P38

Cook takes wing to link with Airbus

GUILSFIELD'S highly rated midfielder Jake Cook has left the club to join Welsh Premier high-fliers Airbus UK.

The 20-year-old Shrewsbury-born midfielder impressed in the Cymru Alliance last season, scoring several terrific goals to help his side to a fourth-place finish.

He arrived at Clos Mytton having spent 12 years at Stoke City where he played for the under-18 and under-21 sides, and his departure will be a blow for the villagers.

Airbus boss Andy Preece, whose side played Guilsfield in the Welsh Cup last term, was delighted to land Cook.

"We looked at Jake over 12 months ago but he had an injury so couldn't show his best," he said.

"We have monitored him all season at Guilsfield where he was outstanding. He caused us problems when we played them in the cup and was the stand-out player in the Alliance."

Meanwhile, a late penalty from Adam Jenkins gave Guilsfield the perfect start to their pre-season with an excellent 2-1 friendly success against Newtown.

Andy Ford had given the home side the lead before a tremendous volley from Ryan Kershaw, a new signing from The New Saints, pulled the Robins level.

Victory over a Welsh Premier side will provide an early boost for Guilsfield who will be looking to challenge in the Cymru Alliance this season.

Cymru Alliance neighbours LLANFAIR UNITED were 4-0 winners against Shrewsbury side Haughmond at Newtown's Latham Park.

"We've signed all of last season's squad," said boss Rhys Stephens. "If we can add one or two more new signings before the start of the season, then I'll be happy."

Llanfair's next friendly is away to FC Oswestry Town at the Venue, Park Hall next Tuesday (July 19).

Cadwallader quits as Welshpool boss

RUSSELL Cadwallader has stepped down after three years as manager of Spar Mid Wales League side Welshpool Town.

Due to increased work commitments as head of Maesydre Primary School, Cadwalalder has relinquished his managerial duties with the team, although he will remain with the club as general manager.

Terry Ingram returns to the club as team boss after spells at Denbigh Town and Cefn Druids, and will want to improve on last season's mid-table finish in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

Home draw for Town

FC OSWESTRY TOWN have been drawn at home to Walsall Wood in the preliminary round of the FA Vase, the tie to be played on Saturday, September 10.

The winners will face Shropshire side Ellesmere Rangers if they come through their home tie with Hereford club Pegasus Juniors.

In their first friendly, FC Oswestry lost 3-1 against Cymru Alliance side Gresford Athletic at the Venue.

Tricky test is looming for Oswestry

CRICKET

AS the second half of the season gets under way, Oswestry's cricketers will look to revive their fortunes in the Birmingham League division two with Saturday's trip to Harborne.

The Morda Road side find themselves lying third from bottom after last weekend's 46-run loss at Penkridge, another side languishing in the lower reaches.

Saturday's trip to promotion hopefuls Harborne promises to be a tricky test for Oswestry who have struggled to find consistency this term.

Both came down from division one last term, while Jonathan Miles' men lost by 53 runs when the sides met on the opening day of the season.

Their Birmingham hosts are going well in third place, but suffered a surprise five-wicket loss to basement side Stourbridge last weekend.

Oswestry – who expect to name an unchanged side – slipped to defeat at Penkridge despite a fine all-round display from skipper Miles who took 1-14 from 10 overs and top scored with 61.

Leaders MONTGOMERY look to maintain their title march in the Henshalls-backed Shropshire League division two with Saturday's trip to Iscoyd & Fenns Bank.

Monty are looking good, moving 48 points clear with last weekend's resounding 68-run win over one of their chief rivals, Wheaton Aston.

WELSHPOOL, up to second after their winning draw against Bishop's Castle at Maesydre, aim to make up ground on the leaders when they head to Tibberton.

CAE GLAS, washed out last weekend, travel to Bishop's Castle as they battle to claw themselves off the foot of the table.

ELLESMERE, another team sidelined by rain, are away to Wheaton Aston, while GUILSFIELD look to maintain their promotion push in division four when they visit Shrewsbury side Beacon.

SAINTS ALIVE! WE CAN DO IT

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints manager Craig Harrison praised his side's disciplined approach after keeping their UEFA Champions League hopes alive with a battling goalless draw with APOEL Nicosia at Park Hall.

The stalemate kept the Welsh Premier champions in the hunt for next Tuesday's second leg in Cyprus, and Harrison was delighted with his team's resolve against classy opposition brimming with European pedigree.

And he insisted the Saints had realistic hope of progressing in the return fixture against the Cypriots, despite having to contend with the Mediterranean heat and an anticipated hostile crowd at APOEL's 22,000 seater stadium in Nicosia.

"The lads were fantastic, and to still be in the tie gives everyone a real boost," said Harrison after the first leg of the second qualifying round.

"As a team, that was the best performance these lads have put in since I've been here. We fully deserved to get something from the game, and it felt like a win, but I don't want to celebrate too much as it is only half way.

"We knew we would have to give them territory and defend, but we were very disciplined and worked really hard to a man. It gives us a real boost to be going over there with something to hold on to.

"It will be the same game plan next week. It will be tough over there, it could be 30 degrees, so we are going to have to work just as hard, if not harder.

"They will have a passionate and hostile crowd behind them, but sometimes that can work against a home side.

"The longer we can keep a clean sheet, the more they may feel the pressure, so we'll be looking to test their mental strength. They may get a bit desperate, start to panic, and make a few mistakes."

The Saints can take heart from creditable displays on their travels in recent European sorties, but this promises to be one of their toughest.

Harrison praised the near faultless full debut of 19-year-old fullback Ryan Price who rose to the occasion in the biggest game of his young career after coming in for Simon Spender.

Jamie Mullan takes a tumble as TNS go on the attack against APOEL Nicosia at Park Hall

"Ryan showed he's one for the future, but I'm very proud of all the players," added Harrison. "They worked hard, kept their discipline, and every single player did their job and executed the game plan superbly.

"Although we had to defend for long spells, we still caused them problems going forward on the counter attack. We got in some good areas, had a few half chances, and with a bit of luck may have got a goal.

"Perhaps our final ball could have been a bit better, but I don't want to be critical as the lads have worked so hard and given everything.

"APOEL had the lion's share of possession, but they did not have an opportunity, from which you felt they should score, while we looked dangerous from the counter-attack."

TNS will be checking the fitness of midfielder Aeron Edwards who was forced off with injury 10 minutes before half time. Although APOEL – 25 times Cyprus champions – bossed possession, many of their attacks petered out in the final third as they became increasingly frustrated, and lacked any real cohesion in front of goal.

Despite happy to sit deep, TNS had a couple of half chances, Scott Quigley seeing a header comfortably clutched by keeper Boy Waterman while sub Chris Seargeant and Ryan Brobbel were unable to cash in when given a sight of goal.

Saints defender Phil Baker was man-of-the-match on an evening which he equalled club coach Scott Ruscoe's Welsh record of 30 appearances in Europe.

World Cup wonder as Rachel wins

RECORD-BREAKING rider Rachel Atherton claimed her 11th successive UCI Mountain Bike World Cup victory with another thrilling performance in the latest event at Lenzerheide, Switzerland.

Llanrhaeadr's Atherton finished 0.7 seconds clear of fellow Briton Tahnee Seagrave with France's Myriam Nicole third in round five of the women's downhill event. Another British rider, Wales' Manon Carpenter, was fourth.

Riding for the Trek Factory Racing team, 28-year-old Atherton's remarkable winning run goes back to June 2015, starting at Fort William in Scotland.

Her latest success marked a 31st World Cup career win to maintain her tight grip at the top of the standings, and stay firmly on course to become the elite women's World Cup champion yet again.

With the Lenzerheide track drying out following rain, Atherton stormed to victory in the finals after posting fastest times at every split in clocking three minutes, 33.859 seconds.

However, her winning sequence came under real threat from the in-form Seagrave, but the last rider to go just missed out on a first World Cup win.

After her 11th consecutive success maintained this season's clean sweep, Atherton said: "That was close and so nerve-wracking.

"It was awesome riding and Tahnee is pushing me so hard right now."

Britain also had success in the men's downhill as Danny Hart edged out American Aaron Gwin by less than one-tenth of a second to claim his first World Cup win.

South Africa's Greg Minaar came in third.

Atherton's brother, Gee, finished 15th overall in 3.12.544 some 6.8 seconds off the pace.

The Downhill World Cup now moves to Mount St Anne in Canada for the sixth round on Sunday, August 7.

Titans swimmers in golden evening

ELLESMERE duo Freya Anderson and Tazmin Pugh are fresh off a golden night at the LEN European Junior Swimming Championships.

The pair, who swim for Ellesmere College Titans, won gold medals at the event in Hódmezovásárhely, Hungary.

On her championship debut, 15-year-old Anderson finished 0.25 seconds clear of Czech Republic's Barbora Seemanova in the women's 100m freestyle, taking the title in 54.72.

Her time beat her personal best and British age group record of 54.99 from the heats on the opening day.

In fact, it would have been fast enough for bronze at April's British Championships in Glasgow.

Pugh, 16, bagged her first major junior international title in the women's 200m backstroke. She saved her best until last, setting a personal best time of 2:11.12 to get the touch in front of Tatiana Salcutan of Moldova, who took silver, and Russia's Polina Egorova. Pugh also reached last night's 50m backstroke final, finishing eighth in a race won by Egorova.

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